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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Criticizes U.S. for 'Useless' Dialogue

AU2811100289 Paris AFP in English 0605 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Paris, Nov 28 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat has criticised the United States for having made its "dialogue" with the PLO "totally useless" instead of leading to "serious negotiations". Mr. 'Arafat's comments appear in the latest issue of the French monthly magazine "LE NOUVEL AFRIQUE ASIE" to be published later this week.

The Palestinian leader said "the Americans have imposed such conditions for dialogue with the PLO that they have practically rendered it formal, marginal and totally useless." "This is why it has lost its importance, its value and has not come to a conclusion", he told the magazine.

The United States began what it termed a "dialogue" with the PLO in December 1988, after the PLO recognised the state of Israel and renounced terrorism. According to Mr. 'Arafat, "this dialogue was supposed to constitute a prelude to serious negotiations, preparing the way for the holding of an international peace conference for the region."

He also said that the Intifada (uprising) by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories "will tend to become more radical and to invent new and more effective methods of struggle", as long as the United States and Israel refuse to "respond to the just aspirations of the Palestinian people".

'Arafat Receives USSR Special Envoy Tarasov

LD2611194789 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Leader, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, has received a message from the Soviet leadership concerning the latest international developments with regard to the Palestinian question. The message was delivered to Abu 'Ammar in Tunis by Gennadiy Tarasov, deputy Soviet foreign minister and special envoy of the Soviet leadership, in the presence of the Soviet ambassador to Tunis and the ambassador of the State of Palestine to Moscow. The radio correspondent has learned that the Soviet envoy briefed brother Abu 'Ammar on the recent contacts undertaken by Soviet diplomacy with international circles concerned with the Middle East, in particular the United States.

For his part, Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed the Soviet envoy on the political situation in the region, stressing the Palestinian peace initiative, which faces increasing Israeli intransigence. Brother Abu 'Ammar said the PLO has offered what was expected from it in order to facilitate the peace process. However, Israeli intrasigence still constitutes a major obstacle to any real progress toward peace. The Soviet envoy arrived in Tunis from Geneva while on his return from Washington after meeting the U.S. assistant state secretary.

The political editor of the radio sees the meeting of the Soviet deputy foreign minister with Brother Abu 'Ammar at this very time as of special importance due to the approaching Soviet-U.S. summit. It is expected that the Palestinian topic would be discussed during the talks between Presidents Gorbachev and Bush, and that the coordination of stands between the Palestinian and the Soviet leaderships is of extreme importance, and equally with the European parties, due to the fact that real contributions to the progress toward peace should be made by European countries and other international groupings, in addition to the two superpowers.

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians in Kuwait

JN2411184389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1623 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] In a meeting with the Palestinian revolution cadres in Kuwait, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, has declared that the U.S. Administration is totally biased toward Israel. He added that the administration is prevaricating to give Shamir additional time to crush the intifadah. He went on to say: However, our people are strong and firm. They will continue to engage in heroic feats and offer sacrifices until victory is achieved, God willing.

In his meeting with popular unions, members of the Palestine National Council, and Palestinian revolution cadres at the Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait, brother Abu-'Ammar indicated that our people have so far given up more than 1,000 martyrs and suffered 49,000 wounded, including 6,500 disabled, and 5,600 miscarriages have occurred, not to mention the fact that the number of detained from among our people's ranks ranges between 63,000 and 64,000. Abu-'Ammar added: Our material losses over a 22-month period amounted to $2.1 billion. We do not beg for financial help. People revolt to end poverty. As for us, we revolted to vindicate and regain our rights. Our people revolted to achieve a national objective. Our worker was paid $15 a day. Each house has a washing machine, a refrigerator, and a television set. Our families are not in short supply of these commodities.

Brother Abu-'Ammar called upon the Arab states to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions which call for supporting the intifadah to ensure its continuation and escalation, and also to enable our people to face up to the enemy's sieges of our cities, villages and camps. Brother Abu-'Ammar added: Gaza is besieged: this siege prevents the entry of foodstuffs into the city. Nabulus has been besieged for 68 days. As for Bayt Sahur, $9 million worth of taxes were collected from the city, whereas the accruable taxes from this city are no more than $55,000. In spite of all this, feats of heroism take place every day, and these feats are taking place in all areas beginning with Dayr Abu Da'if and ending with Rafah. Our people will not be deterred by sieges and oppression, because we have already decided that the intifadah will continue one wave after another until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over holy Jerusalem.

Brother Abu-'Ammar recalled that the current intifadah is not the first staged by our people. He said: An intifadah lasting for 2 and ½ years was previously staged in Gaza. At that time, Sharon was commander of the Gaza region. The last wave of the intifadah did not start in December 1987. No, it began when our people in Shatila asked for a religious edict allowing them to eat the meat of cats, dogs, and human flesh on 24 October 1986. Then, our people in the occupied territories moved. Another wave of the intifadah was witnessed during the Amman summit deliberations. However, the doubt-casters said that the PLO had nothing to do with the intifadah. Then came the practical response which resulted in the martyrdom of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], my brother and beloved one. Afterward, they said that Hamas was the party staging the intifadah. I would like to say: Hamas is a part of the PLO, just like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic Jihad, the Arab Liberation Front, and the Palestine Liberation Front. We are proud of our democracy. We are not rocked by any of these statements, as the phoenix always reemerges stronger and more powerful. The mountain is not rocked by winds. This revolution will continue. Suffice it to say that our people introduced the term intifadah into world dictionaries, just as the fedayee introduced the word fedayee into world dictionaries. This revolution is a unique phenomenon in contemporary history in that it is the revolution that has continued for the longest time span. The Vietnamese revolution lasted for 22 years. As for us, we have been fighting for 25 years. We have buried the idea that the Palestinian people have been done away with. They are calling our soil Judaea and Samaria. I would like to tell them that this soil is Arab and that it speaks Arabic.

In his speech, brother Abu-'Ammar noted that numerous Palestinian areas have become liberated zones inaccessible to the enemy. He cited the example of the village of al-Safi where things are being run by the Unified National Leadership through the use of the mosque's microphone to promulgate orders and regulations.

Brother Abu-'Ammar added: The stone-throwing generals and heroes are the ones leading the intifadah. They are the ones teaching the enemy lessons in struggle. He declared that the plans and initiatives that bypass our people's rights to repatriation, to self-determination, and to establish an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital are doomed to failure.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said: We are not interested in either the 10 or 5 points. We have our decision—that is, the Palestinian initiative which was espoused by the Arab summit. It is true that we are facing a ferocious enemy. They [not further identified] are warning us, citing the alliance binding the United States to Israel and Baker to Shamir. I would like to address them by saying: Remember Sharon, Eytan, and Haig in the 1982 war. They told Haig: We will finish the invasion in 2 days. Then, they asked for 1 week to accomplish the mission. However, they were surprised by the phoenix who held out for 88 days in the longest Arab-Israeli war and reemerged more powerful. Hence, I would like to tell you: Rest assured and do not be concerned with what is being proposed here and there. They have their papers and we have ours. We are firmer than they think. We are leading the battles with nerves of steel; those who lose their nerve are defeated whether they are waging a military or a political battle. I have behind me a firm people. Our confidence in our people is high. I pledge to you that when something substantial emerges, I will present that thing to our people who will decide on it. We will not allow anybody to [word indistinct]. I told the three EC ministers who called on me in Tunis: You view the Jews as an elite. They might be an elite in the world, but not in Palestine. The most recent statistics have shown that the Jews have 14 university graduates in every 1,000 Israelis. As for us the Palestinians, we have 18 university graduates in every 1,000 Palestinians. We are not like the North American Indians; nobody can exterminate us. Have you seen the independence celebrations? Every day, our people invent new ways. The used firecrackers in the celebrations. We are an educated and literate people. The Europeans asked me the following question: How can we help you? I told them: Give us tuition scholarships and buy the products of our occupied territories—that is, our olives, olive oil, almonds, and vegetables so that the fedayee who has been complying with orders and who has not used firearms so far can be helped. His failure to use firearms was not prompted by a failure to possess arms. No, we are capable of possessing arms. Ask the Israelis how we are securing arms. They took a soldier to task because he sold 475 rifles. When asked, how can you sell these rifles to Fatah? It is a terrorist organization. He answered: This is business. The firearms are there, the training is there, the bases are there, and one who seeks training can have this training. Let them know that our option is there and that we will turn the tables at the appropriate time.

In reply to another [as heard] question, brother Abu-'Ammar said that for every million dollars that we lose, the Jews lose $3 million. The Israelis have lost $5.7 billion. The most important accomplishment scored by our intifadah is that we have killed the myth of the invincible Zionist soldier and that we have bolstered the image of the Palestinians. Mitterrand said that the homeless Palestinian has burst forth. As for me, I would say that this general and hero has burst forth to attain victory and triumph. Let us remain together and side by side, until the realization of victory, until the realization of victory [repeats himself], God willing.

'Arafat Confers With Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

JN2411194089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1622 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, has met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, especially those pertaining to our Palestinian people's cause and their blessed intifadah in the occupied territories in view of the escalation of the acts of oppression and terrorism being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities.

PFLP-GC Spokesman Reports 25 Nov Israeli Air Raid

JN2511111589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1034 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following: On the second anniversary of the Qibya martyrs' operation—the operation of gliders which struck at the heart of the Zionist entity's military establishment—the Zionist enemy attempted to restore some of its army's esteem. The enemy has therefore intensified its air raids on the PFLP-GC position over the last 48 hours. At 1045 today, 25 November, a Zionist enemy air formation raided our positions in the Lusi area in western al-Biqa'. These positions were simultaneously shelled with 175-mm long-range artillery which the enemy moved to the frontline.

We will furnish you with new developments. Revolution until the liberation of land and man.
[Signed] The PFLP-GC.

Israel Shells PFLP-GC Positions

JN2511114089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1122 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following: The correspondent of al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, has reported that in al-Biqa', Zionist enemy artillery began shelling front positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] at 1125 today. He adds that an air-to-surface time missile fired by the Zionist enemy aircraft exploded at 1205, but there were no human losses.

PFLP-GC Claims Possession of U.S. Missiles

JN2511123489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1205 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following: Sources close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] have reported that the PFLP-GC is now in the process of forming a technical committee of specialists comprising PFLP-GC engineering elements and experts from sisterly and friendly countries to study new surface-to-air missiles of an advanced generation. It is known that PFLP-GC engineering elements have succeeded in moving these American Zionist missiles to safe places. The PFLP-GC experts have also succeeded in eliminating the possible detonation of these missiles, which an official PFLP-GC source describes as the most modern U.S. missiles that were manufactured this year.

The experts committee will certainly uncover the designs and mechanisms of these missiles, as well as their advanced technology, a matter which will help determine the way to confront them. This will also directly reveal the United States' collusion in testing every weapon it produces in our area against our Arab nation in general and our heroic Palestinian people in particular.

Further on U.S. Missiles

JN2511205489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] The correspondent of the Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio on the Road of the Liberation of Land and Man in al-Biqa' has reported that Zionist enemy artillery began shelling Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] positions at 1125 today, Saturday 25 November. The correspondent adds that a primed air-to-ground missile fired by Zionist enemy aircraft detonated at 1205 without causing casualties.

In addition, a military spokesman for the PFLP-GC has made the following statement:

Following our earlier communique on Zionist air raids against our positions in the Ghaza Lusi region in the western al-Biqa' this morning, Saturday 25 November 1989: At exactly 1125 the Zionist enemy artillery, in conjunction with their Air Force, shelled and strafed the perimeter of the area with 175-mm artillery. The raiding enemy aircraft fired numerous primed missiles on our positions in Ghaza Lusi: At 1205, one of the primed missiles exploded in the area while the search was going on for other unexploded rockets. The enemy is thought to have dropped them around our positions. The enemy air raids and artillery shelling and primed missiles have not caused any loss of life within the ranks of our fighters. But there have been many civilian casualties.

Later, a spokesman for the PFLP-GC issued the following statement:

The PFLP-GC is forming a committee of experts comprising engineering personnel from the front and experts from sisterly and friendly countries to study the new, advanced-generation air-to-ground missiles left behind by repeated Zionist raids on PFLP-GC bases on Thursday 23 November 1989 and Saturday 25 November 1989. The front's engineering personnel succeeded in moving these American-Zionist missiles to safety. PFLP-GC experts have also managed to defuse the missiles, described by one of them as being among the most up-to-date the Americans have produced this year 1989. The committee of experts is sure to learn the secret designs and mechanisms of these missiles as well as their advanced technology, which will help in neutralizing them. This will also prove first-hand the U.S. collusion in testing every newly manufactured weapon in our region against our Arab nation in general and against our heroic Palestinian people in particular. We pledge to pursue the struggle along the road of liberating land and man.

Jibril Offers To Allow Police To Question His Men

LD2611110489 London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT in English 26 Nov 89 p 1

["Lockerbie Suspects Offer To Face Police"—headline; by Hala Jaber and Christopher Elliot]

[Text] AHMAD Jibril, who heads the Palestinian group suspected of the Lockerbie bombing, is offering to let police interview any of his men they wish, so long as it is in a neutral country.

The extraordinary offer comes in an exclusive interview with THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT.

During the interview Mr Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), handed over a copy of a letter from the office of the Frankfurt federal prosecutor, which he claims "clears" one of the West's chief suspects—Muhammad Dalkamoni, who is held in West Germany charged with possessing explosives.

The intelligence community believes Dalkamoni set up the Lockerbie bombing with Iranian officials.

For the first time Mr Jibril has also confirmed that a PFLP-GC member based in Cyprus has been interviewed by German detectives and that the group uses devices similar to the radio-cassette bomb that brought down Flight 103 last year, killing 270 people.

But he emphatically denies that his group was responsible for the bombing.

He says he is willing to allow police to question his men: "If they have evidence I am prepared to send them to a netural country like Switzerland, for example, on condition that the Swiss will guarantee that they come to no harm.

"We are prepared for any side to come and question us, whether they are from the US or from Britain. Why hasn't any side come and asked me any questions regarding this issue?"

His remarks will be treated with extreme scepticism by the Western intelligence community, which is convinced his organisation was behind the bombing.

West German police arrested Dalkamoni, a senior member of the central committee of the PFLP-GC, last year for possession of weapons and explosives. In his car they discovered a radio-cassette bomb with a barometric triggering device of the kind which experts are convinced brought down the jumbo.

Jabril is adament there are only two PFLP-GC members held anywhere in the world, Dalkamoni and one other, both held in Germany on charges connected with explosives and weapons which he claims were destined for attacks on Israel.

He denies that four Arabs on trial in Sweden for terrorist attacks in Scandanavia are members of the PFLP-GC.

Jibril Interviewed, Claims 'Discerning' Methods

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["Hard Man Filled With Hatred for the West—headline; by correspondent Hala Jaber]

[Text] A white Cadillac weaved through the alleyways of Damascus on the first stage of our journey to meet Ahmad Jabril, the man whom the West believes was responsible for killing 270 people in the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie and one of the most notorious Palestinian guerrilla leaders.

Ahmad Jibril is the head of the PFLP-GC, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command—a large and complicated name for a large, complicated and lethal organisation.

Created by Jibril about 20 years ago, the PLFP-GC is now seen as the fiercest opponent of any compromise with Israel and the West.

Surrounded by Jibril's heavily armed bodyguards, we entered his small room at his headquarters in the heart of central Damascus. The committed enemy of Israel and the west bounded into the room; a smiling, stockily-built man dressed in baggy blue trousers and a jumper. His casual dress and ready smile belie his fearsome reputation.

Around his sparsely furnished office, enlarged photographs of fighters ("martyrs," he said, to the Palestinian cause) posing proudly before a raid, leave no doubt that Jibril is in the business of violence. On his desk is a lighter fashioned as a hand holding a hand grenade. But he is, despite all this, a chatty avuncular figure. He strongly denied that he had masterminded the bombing of Pan Am 103, although he expressed no remorse at the loss of so many lives, especially Americans. "I was happy to hear about the San Francisco earthquake," he said. "I don't know how I would have managed to take revenge on the United States, but it seems that God did it for me."

Jibril's methods are, he claims, more discerning than those of most other guerrilla groups.

"Terrorists are people who have lost the will to suppress their anger and patience any longer," he said. "They hit back right, left and centre, so the world will take notice of their plight.

"This method, and its continuation is self-destructive. We will not adopt such methods despite our strong hatred for the powerful countries.

"The West is now accusing us of being terrorists, but are we the terrorists or are the terrorists those who made five million Palestinians homeless?

He spoke, with mounting passion, of his Islamic soul and his newly-strengthened links with fundamentalist Iran.

"Our relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran is not as new as some would think," he said.

"The relationship dates back to about 10 years ago when the Shah of Iran, who was a friend of Israel and the United States, was ousted. They proclaimed the slogan 'today in Iran—tomorrow in Jerusalem." '

"I personaly visited Iran on several occasions in past years and I know most if not all the top officials there. We feel they are honest and sincere in their views towards the Palestinian cause and they demand nothing in return for the support and financial help they provide us with."

Jibril refused to say whether they received the same level of financial support from Iran as they once had from Libya, his previous backers, estimated at $4m a month. "Recently the Iranians have had more time to divert to other things after the end of the Gulf War," he added with a disconcerting smile. He claims to be exercising influence over the intifada, the Palestinian uprising on the West Bank and Gaza, through his links with the radical religious organisations, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad.

"There is no doubt that Hamas and Islamic Jihad are very important in the occupied territories. We have a very strong relationship with these two organisations," he said. "We were responsible for the release in May 1985 of all the leaders of Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups during an exchange of prisoners."

This was the exchange in which the Syrians freed three Israelis in return for more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Dalkamoni, one of the two men now held in Germany believed to have been involved in the bombing of Pan Am 103, and a Japanese terrorist, were also freed in this exchange.

Jibril reserves a special venom for the part played by the British in Palestine. "It will be impossible for us to forgive the Britons for the crime they committed against us 72 years ago and which is still continuing today.

"The day will come when we shall settle the account of this crime. We shall make you pay the price of this crime in which you destroyed our people and turned five million Palestinians into refugees for 42 years."

Jibril, 52, is a military man from his shiny shoes to his clipped moustache. A captain in the Syrian Army until 1958, he was discharged when it was discovered that he was using his military contacts to build up the strength of the PLFP-GC.

The son of a Palestinian father and Syrian mother, he is a bitter opponent of Yasir 'Arafat and his peace plans. Alone among the Palestinian leaders he has refused to negotiate with Israel and the West on any terms.

'Arafat is hoping to come to an agreement with Israel on establishing a Palestinian homeland in the occupied territories of West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He has recognised UN resolution 242 which gives the Israeli state the right to exist.

Israel, however, has refused to meet any of 'Arafat's PLO representatives and has rejected the idea of Palestinian right to return and of self-determination.

"'Arafat believes that by cooperating with the U.S. on security matters as he has been doing for the last ten years that he can achieve his goals," said Jibril. "He provides them with information about us Palestinians and all the anti-Western movements in the world, like the IRA. He is working as an agent for the Americans.

"I will lay down my arms but on only one, small condition," he added. "I was born in a small village near Jaffa and I have been away for 41 years.

"Don't I have any right to go back and live in my birthplace where all the graves of my ancestors are? I want a solution that will give me the right to return there."

OPEC Affairs

Leaders Meet in Bid To Break Deadlock

AU2711175789 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Vienna, Nov 27 (AFP)—Leading OPEC oil producers, including Saudi Arabia and other Gulf "heavyweights", were Monday seeking to break a deadlock over crude oil production limits for next year, but delegates conceded chances for a workable agreement appeared slim.

Saudi oil minister Hisham Nazer said Monday afternoon that ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries continued to meet "in order to reach an agreement."

But Algeria's Energy and Mining Minister Sadek Boussena suggested they might not be able to reach a decision on redistribution of national production quotas and a higher OPEC output ceiling that all 13 member countries could subscribe to.

"We have to continue working as long as there is a possibility of agreement among all thirteen," he told reporters.

But he said OPEC's year-end conference might end "sooner than expected" because of the complexity of issues discussed.

Iran's Gholam Reza Aqazadeh appeared more optimistic, saying he thought a deal could be struck by Tuesday with all 13 members endorsing it.

Western oil industry officials and analysts watching the talks here believe a failure to secure an accord that would put an end to overstepping of quotas by major Gulf countries could put pressure on crude prices as demand eases in the new year.

OPEC has a production ceiling of 20.5 million barrels a day (MBD) until year-end, but actual output is now running at 23.5 MBD, largely because Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are pumping double their official quotas of about 1.1 MBD.

Kuwait was reported ready to accept a proposal backed by its neighbours, including Saudi Arabia and former Gulf war foes Iran and Iraq, which would leave the two emirates new quotas of 1.5 MBD, but the UAE was said to be insisting on no less than 1.9 MBD.

This formula was worked out on the basis of a new ceiling of 22.5 MBD, that would effectively take one MBD out of the market if fully adhered to.

But because of UAE intransigence, the ministers were late Monday working on an alternative solution that would leave out the oil-rich emirate.

Senior delegates said this was based on a ceiling of 22 MBD, with pro rata quota increases for all members except the UAE, which would be left with an unchanged notional quota.

Kuwait's share would be raised to 1.5 MBD through a transfer of 100,000 barrels a day (b/d) from Indonesia and 74,000 b/d from Venezuela, on the grounds that both countries are producing at or close to capacity.

The senior delegates said several countries, including Algeria, Libya and Gabon, opposed this concept because it would leave the UAE free to produce at will, perhaps boosting OPEC's output in the first months of the new year to somewhere in the area of 23.9 MBD.

They said this was bound to depress prices.

Mr. Boussena told reporters the "essential issue" was now the production ceiling.

Ministers Agree on Production Pact

AU2811132089 Paris AFP in English 1251 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Vienna, Nov 28 (AFP)—Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Tuesday secured agreement in principle on an oil production pact setting a 22 million barrels a day ceiling for the first half of next year, ministerial aides said.

The accord, based on a formula proposed by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq, had still to be formally endorsed in plenary session. The ministerial aides said last-minute obstacles raised by Algeria and Libya had been resolved. "It is all tied up," one told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Delegation officials meanwhile said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were putting pressure on the United Arab Emirates to sign the deal to ensure at least token support from all 13 member OPEC countries.

Algeria

Foreign Minister on Election of Lebanese President

LD2411235889 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Following the news of the election [of the new Lebanese president], we asked Mr Seyed Ahmed Ghazali, the foreign minister and member of the Arab tripartite committee how he feels about this event. Listen to his answer:

[Begin Ghazali recording] I feel that it is a great success for Lebanon. In fact that is what we expected. It was necessary in circumstances as dramatic as these that the Lebanese people showed that it was firm and not let the opportunity to achieve national reconciliation slip away at any cost—and the assassination of Rene Mu'awwad was a severe blow. This will not deflect its determination to go ahead and push further until resolving the process of the implementation of the agreement on national reconciliation. In these dramatic circumstances in Lebanon there is still a big hope—that is shown by this determination of the Lebanese to get out of this vicious circle of violence, war, and disorder through national reconciliation, understanding, and the reestablishment of the institutions of the Lebanese state. [end recording]

[Announcer] In Tunis, an emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab League will be held on Sunday to examine the Palestinian question. Will the Algerian, Saudi, and Moroccan foreign ministers—that is the tripartite committee—meet on the sidelines of this session? The answer of Seyed Ahmed Ghazali:

[Begin Ghazali recording] We have not met so far, but we have been in contact every hour. Well, if all the ministers are present in Tunis the meeting will be possible. [end recording]

Pakistani Delegation Begins Official Visit

Foreign Ministers Begin Talks

LD2711120589 Algiers APS in English 1311 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Algiers, 26/11/89 (APS)—Algerian-Pakistani political talks started Saturday between the two foreign ministers, Seyed Ahmed Ghazali and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and were later enlarged to include the members of the two delegations. Seyed Ahmed Ghazali first paid homage to the old diplomatic relations between the two countries, as Pakistan was the first country to recognize the provisional government of the Algerian Republic in 1958 and recalled the constant solidarity of this country with the national liberation struggle. He also briefed the hosts of Algeria on the political and economic reforms initiated by President Chadli Bendjedid and the charges they induced in the political and social life.

The foreign minister also said that Algeria is continuing its efforts in the frame of setting up permanent structures of the Union of Arab Maghreb, pointing out that this regional gathering is a deep aspiration of the peoples of the area. Dealing with the Western Sahara conflict, Ghazali reiterated the necessity of holding a referendum of self-determination, recalling in this context the constant support of Algeria to joint efforts of the UN secretary general and the OAU chairman.

The latest developments of the situation in Lebanon were the subject of a fruitful exchange of views on the necessity of an international solidarity likely to enable this country to resume its unity and its sovereignty on the basis of national understanding.

Finally, the two ministers unanimously considered that the Third World countries are requested to increase their relations and define the real potential of complementarity, particularly in the present development phase of the international situation.

Yaqub Khan Holds News Conference

LD2711220389 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The evaluation of all aspects of Algerian-Pakistani cooperation was one of the main points highlighted in the news conference by the Pakistani foreign minister at El-Mithaq residence, to representatives of the national press.

[Begin Yaqub Khan recording in English with simultaneous Arabic translation] I have had important and interesting talks with Algerian officials. I was suprised by their profound international and regional political outlook. We tackled various significant international issues either on the economic or political levels. However, our focus was on relations between Algeria and Pakistan in their capacity as two Muslim countries.

Our fraternal relations, he said, go back to the period when the Algerian people were struggling for freedom and independence. As far as Pakistan is concerned, the Algerian struggle for independence was a continuation of our liberation movement. These relations have been progressing since independence. These days we share the same ambitions to build modern and democratic societies based on equality, human rights, and basic liberties.

Regarding cooperation issues, the Pakistani foreign minister added: We have agreed to set up a joint Algerian-Pakistani committee to draw up a strategy for cooperation. Concerning his meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid, he said: I was honored with the audience accorded to me by the president of the Republic, despite his numerous duties. I detected from him a dynamic view aimed at developing his country and bolstering cooperation between Algeria and Pakistan. Likewise, I noted his commitment vis-a-vis Third World matters, and his deep understanding of the development of international relations. He added: My meeting with the president has enriched my experience and has deeply impressed me. [end recording]

Official Visit Ends 27 Nov

LD2711215189 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Pakistani Foreign Minister Mr Yaqub Khan today ended his official 2-day visit to our country. Before leaving, he gave a news conference at [name indistinct] this morning. He was anxious to stress the good relations between the two countries. Following his talks with President Bendjedid, the head of the government, and the Algerian foreign minister, the matter was raised of deepening these relations through concrete cooperation, at least in the economic field initially. A first official step has already been taken.

Let us listen to Mr Yaqub Khan speaking to (Abderrahman Driss):

[Begin recording] We have already signed an agreement on establishing a joint commission. The joint commission formally defines the framework in which cooperation could be effected. [passage omitted] [end recording]

FLN CC 'Extraordinary Summit' Begins

LD2511140689 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] In preparation for the National Liberation Front (FLN) extraordinary summit, the Central Committee extraordinary session proceedings started this morning at the Palais des Nations in the Club des Pins in order to put the finishing touches on the congress. The radio delegation on the spot sent the following dispatch:

[Reporter] This session is extraordinary and decisive, being the last stage before convening the extraordinary congress which has been fixed for 28, 29, and 30 November.

The session proceedings were opened by Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Central Committee, with a brief speech in which he determined the principal axes around which the general discussions, which will be held in closed sessions, will revolve. The first and most important of the axes is the study of the general report, which will be raised by the Central Committee to the extraordinary congress, and which assesses the outcome of FLN activity during the period between the FLN sixth congress and today. The general report determines the FLN's new characteristics in the era of reforms and in the shadow of the current changes, and challenges imposed by the nature of this stage.

The second axis in the proceedings is related to the material and moral preparations for the convening of the extraordinary conference. As far as this point is concerned, Mr Abdelhamid Mehri said that all the amendments have been completed, either politically or materially. The new factor recorded here, according to Mr Mehri, is the considerable contribution of FLN militants to the expenditure, which amounted to about one billion centimes.

In addition, the Central Committee extraordinary session will discuss the reports which were prepared during the regional preparatory meetings, and the national seminars of the state cadres and revolution commands, which Mr Abdelhamid Mehri said were characterized by seriousness, responsibility, and an attempt to contribute to the success of the extraordinary congress.

In addition to these axes, the Central Committee will complete the study of some organizational measures and matters which were not discussed previously during the preparatory conference and national seminars.

It is also likely that summaries of the preparatory reports will be discussed by the extraordinary congress, which will be only sorted out by the preparatory committee. This means an emphasis on granting the necessary importance to grass root decisions in crystallizing the program that will be put forth by the congress. The radio delegation has been talking to you from the Palais des Nations. Good-bye.

Central Committee Session Ends

LD2511232489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee's extraordinary session ended this evening at the Palace of Nations. This session, which comes only 2 days before the front's extraordinary congress, was held in closed sessions. It concentrated on the latest arrangements to ensure the success of the congress in terms of material and political preparations for the vital event in the life of the front's militants in its new era, the era of reforms, the seeds of which were sown and nurtured by the FLN.

The closed meetings were marked by wide-ranging discussion which concentrated essentially on studying the draft report to be submitted to the congress in the name of the Central Committee. We have learned that the report, or what was termed by some sources as the Thesis of the Central Committee, is composed of 17 pages analyzing the current situation and drawing the general orientations of the future action program which will be produced by the extraordinary congress. The Central Committee's extraordinary session culminated with an agreement to draft the report in a final form during the next 24 hours after the inclusion of amendments brought about by the general discussion.

Commentary Warns Against FLN 'Power Seekers'

LD2711211289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Nouriddin Bouzian commentary]

[Excerpts] Twenty-four hours separate us from the opening of the most significant event in the national arena: The convening of the emergency congress of the National Liberation Front [FLN] amid the great reforms in Algerian society. The front's emergency congress, which will convene tomorrow at the Oval Hall in the 5 July Olympic complex, will bring together for 3 days around 5,000 FLN strugglers. [passage omitted] Nouriddin Bouzian wrote the following commentary:

The front plays its last cards; the front at the crossroads; the front, and the congress of the last opportunity; these are the issues which are being discussed and repeated these days. In reality, these words contain a great deal of truth, considering the tests awaiting the front. It no longer monopolizes the scene as the people gave their consent to the 23 February Constitution, a constitution which was approved and embraced by Algerians because it reinstituted their sacred right and will to manage their affairs as a practical and de facto embodiment of the principle of power to the people. [passage omitted]

However, with all the legitimate ambitions and optimism, there is something which is worrying the citizen and the struggler. They are unable to understand the tunes which some people—who have appointed themselves as protectors of the front's traditions and principles—have started to play. In essence they have not, do not, and will not care about the front except for consolidating their own interests and achieving their objectives of holding on to their seat of guardianship, authority, and paternalism. The new symphony which we are hearing now raises many questions. How do we interpret the fear of those middlemen of the front, which has given them everything while they have given it nothing? What have they done for it, and how did they benefit it when they were in it? The mist which was designed to envelop the front must be dispersed before it is too late. It is not in the interest of the front's sons to use and exhaust their energy in an argument which has been settled on the one hand by the people, by endorsing the new constitution, and on the other by the economic crisis which is choking the country and worshipers, and which has abrogated, until further notice, the policy of deceiving the people by pursuing demagogy. [passage omitted]

It has become imperative that the strugglers who truly believe in the front to support the reformists' camp within the front, and not to be dragged behind those who have recently been called the front's barons, who seem to have said all there is to be said about the front's unity, socialism and the democratic nature of the ballot box, but forgot to say that they are looking for power. [passage omitted]

Democratic Union, People's Party Recognized

LD2711224489 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] We have learned from the Interior Ministry that both the Algerian People's Party, which submitted its file on 26 September 1989, and the Democratic Forces Union, which applied for recognition on the 27th of the same month, have been granted official recognition. It is worth mentioning that Popular Unity Party has gained recognition by the Interior Ministry recently. Therefore, the number of parties that have been officially recognized so far is 10.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Makes Foreign Policy Statement

NC2511191889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that the Foreign Ministry, in collaboration with the various state institutions, continues to follow up the problems facing Egyptian expatriates in Iraq. The Foreign Ministry, he added, is sparing no effort to protect their interests, demand their full rights, and defend their dignity.

In a statement delivered before the Consultative Council Committee for Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security this evening, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his belief that the agreement signed recently with Iraq will reduce the intensity of the problem and pave the way for a comprehensive solution in the future. [passage omitted]

The text of Dr 'Abd-al-Majid's statement is as follows:

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, chairman of the Consultative Council; Dr Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Committee for Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security; ladies and gentlemen; members of the committee.

I am pleased to respond to your kind invitation to speak to your venerable committee about the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. I would like to begin by welcoming the statement issued by your committee at the conclusion of its meeting on 16-17 September. I want to assure you that the committee's recommendations have been the subject of consideration and interest.

Ladies and gentlemen: Reviewing the accomplishments of Egyptian foreign policy in the recent period, we will find that the most prominent achievements were Tabah's return to Egyptian sovereignty, the resumption of Arab-Egyptian relations, the reinstatement of Egypt as a member of the League of Arab States, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's election as OAU chairman.

The success of Egyptian foreign policy can be attributed to the underlying clear vision of pan-Arab goals and active diplomatic action which utilized the changing regional and international situation to achieve the goals of peace, stability, and development.

Egyptian activities covered a wide spectrum, including the Arab world, the African Continent, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations. Furthermore, in these activities we sought to steer bilateral relations with different countries toward the service of our common issues and interests.

1. At the Arab level: The resumption of relations between Egypt and the majority of Arab countries, as well as Egypt's reinstatement in the Arab League, were the result of constant Egyptian efforts to improve and develop bilateral relations, reiterate its Arab affiliation and solid commitment to defending the national rights of the Palestinian people, and stand up to the challenges and dangers threatening Arab security. At the first Arab summit meeting in which Egypt participated for 10 years, President Mubarak presented a clear vision of an integrated Arab program to enhance the effectiveness of joint Arab action. Egypt participated effectively and positively in the Arab foreign ministers meetings which were held in the Arab League's temporary headquarters in Tunis last September. It also hosted several Arab ministerial conferences.

In February 1989, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], which includes Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic, was founded as a necessary step to meet the challenges of the age of large economic groupings, according to Article 9 of the Arab League Charter, and in coordination with other Arab regional groupings. It represented a practical step toward an all-embracing Arab integration. Several agreements were signed to develop cooperation among the ACC members in various fields.

Believing in the importance of tightening relations between Egypt and other sister Arab states, several joint higher committees were formed to follow up those agreements and remove any obstacles to their development and growth. In this respect, I would like to refer to the recent Egyptian-Libyan summit. This culminated in an agreement on a number of joint projects which are bound to open new horizons for fruitful cooperation between the two countries. As part of the efforts to normalize relations, it was also agreed to establish brotherhood bureaus in both countries.

Regarding the recent crisis over the conditions of Egyptian workers in fraternal Iraq, I would like to review the efforts made by the Foreign Ministry in cooperation with all other ministries concerned so that the picture may become clearer to you and to the public.

The Foreign Ministry has, over the past few months, been following up the conditions of Egyptian workers in Iraq through the cables and reports sent by the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad. The embassy carried out numerous contacts with Iraqi officials of various levels to reach solutions for these workers' problems.

I also held several direct contacts with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on this issue. Joint meetings of the technical committees in both ministries were held. These meetings were also attended by representatives of the other ministries concerned and focused on the conditions of Egyptian workers in Iraq. Naturally, consultations among the representatives of several Egyptian ministries concerned and their Iraqi counterparts were carried out with the aim of attaining appropriate solutions to the workers' problems.

President Saddam Husayn's personal intervention in this issue helped to expedite the response of Iraqi Government organs and heightened their interest in adopting practical solutions to the Egyptian community's problems. His excellency met with a delegation from this community and listened to their complaints. He promised to exert his utmost efforts to overcome their problems and to give them their rights and pay due to them. He also emphasized his profound appreciation for Egypt and his great desire to maintain and strengthen the fraternal ties between the two peoples.

The third session of the higher Egyptian-Iraqi joint committee was held in Cairo between 13 and 19 November under the chairmanship of Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister. The committee discussed the conditions of the workers in Iraq and reached the following results:

It was agreed that Iraq will pay $50 million of the overdue pay of Egyptian workers in Iraq in $10-million installments, with 10-day intervals between installments. The first installment was paid on 16 November and the payments will continue until the end of the year. It was agreed that new discussions would be held to agree on new rates of repayment of the remainder of the workers' overdue pay next year, on the understanding that this would be done as promptly as possible. Priority in reception of this payment was given to families of dead workers and workers who had terminated their employment in Iraq.

It was agreed to conclude a social insurance agreement for workers in both countries.

It was agreed that a large part of Iraq's debt to certain Egyptian companies would be settled. A meeting will be held next spring to decide on the settlement of the remainder of the debt.

Agreement was reached between officials of the airlines of both countries to settle the payment due to Egypt Air by the payment of specific sums on specific dates.

A committee to follow up these arrangements on a daily basis was formed under the chairmanship of an assistant foreign minister. The committee includes representatives of the concerned parties as its members. It will tackle the problems of workers returning from Iraq and extend every possible assistance to them when they return to the homeland.

I would like to assure you that the Foreign Ministry, through cooperation and coordination with all other ministries and state organs, is continuing to follow up the problems of Egyptian workers in Iraq. It is sparing no effort to protect their interests, demand their full rights, and defend their dignity as Egyptian citizens. I am confident that the agreement we reached with Iraq and the steps which it promised to take to solve these problems are bound to ease the current crisis and pave the way for a comprehensive future solution to it. We are taking into account the strategic and pan-Arab factor in our relationship with Iraq. The Iraqi leadership has participated in the effort to bolster and promote this relationship.

Ladies and gentlemen: Regarding the Palestinian problem, perhaps you have been following the efforts to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a first step toward giving an impetus to the peace process in the region. It is our belief that there is a historic opportunity to find a peaceful solution to the problem following the Palestine National Council's resolutions in Algiers last November and the Palestinians' acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for a settlement. This peaceful trend by the PLO has helped achieve a great reserve of world sympathy and support for the Palestinian cause and increase pressure on Israel to respond to the Palestinian peace initiative.

On 14 May 1989, Israeli Prime Minister Shamir submitted a peace initiative that includes holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Naturally, no one would reject the notion as such, but the matter requires drawing up guarantees for free and honest elections and the definition of the relationship of the transitional period with the final stage of the settlement. Hence, and from this premise, the president submitted 10 queries about the Israeli proposals. His excellency proposed holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo to discuss them. In connection with this, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made another proposal consisting of five points, including a mechanism for the proposed dialogue. Israel agreed to this proposal but with conditions and reservations.

The PLO's Central Council did not reject the U.S. Secretary of State's proposals at its meeting in Baghdad in October but welcomed the principle of negotiations. In turn, the Palestinian side made a number of reservations.

In its consultations and moves, Egypt has been keen to clarify the following:

That Egypt does not replace the Palestinians under any circumstances;

That it is the Palestinian side's right to express its view on its problem and fate;

That the current Palestinian stand, which enjoys international support and backing, should continue.

There is great hope that the current diplomatic efforts will give a new impetus to the peace process and that the proposed dialogue will be a step toward a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue in all its aspects. We are still in contact and still consulting with the Palestinian side on this matter.

Ladies and gentlemen: Regarding the Lebanese problem, Egypt has followed with deep interest the tripartite Arab committee's efforts to achieve national accord in Lebanon, through the implementation of an ambitious agreed upon program for constitutional and political reforms. This program would entail the elimination of the phenomenon of political sectarianism which is one of the main reasons for the civil war in Lebanon and for the aggravation of the Lebanese crisis.

On this basis, the Arab Republic of Egypt has without hesitation or reservations supported the al-Ta'if agreement and the election of a new Lebanese president. This president was soon killed by the forces of division and enemies of the Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis. Egypt has strongly condemned this terrorist and criminal act.

Egypt is confident that the fraternal Lebanese people are capable of overcoming this painful national and pan-Arab tribulation. In consultation and coordination with the brother members of the higher Arab tripartite committee, we will extend every possible assistance to the Lebanese people in their sincere endeavor to implement the national accord program. We hope that the election of Ilyas al-Hirawi as president of the Republic of Lebanon will be the start of a new era of stability and security in Lebanon and will put an end to the people's sufferings.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran conflict, Egypt supports the search for a peaceful settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598. It is following with interest the efforts of the UN secretary general's envoy to revive negotiations between the two sides and implement all clauses of the abovementioned resolution so that the current cease-fire may turn into a lasting peace that will restore security and stability to the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

Regarding the recent developments in southern Sudan and the outbreak of fighting between the government troops and the Garang forces, Egypt is anxious to find a peaceful settlement to the issue of the South that would guarantee Sudan's stability and propserity. Egypt has appealed to the neighboring African countries to exert their good offices with the southerners and persuade them not to step up military action but to resume negotiations with the Sudanese Government. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's brief visit to Cairo on 23 November was an opportunity for consultations and an exchange of views with President Husni Mubarak concerning the recent developments and the situation in southern Sudan.

2. At the African level:

The African Continent is one of Egyptian foreign policy's top priorities at this stage in view of President Mubarak's chairmanship of the current OAU session. Egypt focuses its efforts on resolving the issue of debts, activating Arab-African cooperation, supporting Namibia's independence, and combating racist discrimination in South Africa. Furthermore, Egypt is undertaking mediation efforts in African disputes, such as the Senegalese-Mauritanian dispute, and in the problems of the Horn of Africa and the issue of Chad.

3. At the Islamic level:

Egypt continues its activities within the Islamic Conferenec Organization. For the first time it will host the conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers during the first half of next year. Furthermore, Egypt continues its efforts to promote the ties of friendship and cooperation with the Islamic states on a bilateral level.

4. At the European level:

Egypt continues its extensive exchanges and consultations with the European countries. The last of these were the meetings of the fifth session of the Cooperation Council between Egypt and the EC in Brussels during the 1st week of November. The two parties discussed bilateral relations and the EC's role in supporting Egypt's stand in its negotiations with the international financial organizations. The two parties also reviewed the peace efforts in the Middle East, the activation of the Arab-European dialogue and the revival of the North-South dialogue, and the recent developments in the Arab and African arena.

Egypt attaches extreme importance to the current events and developments in East European countries, as being the most important developments the world has witnessed since the Second World War, and in view of their far-reaching effects on the balance and existing situation in the continent and in international relations. We are closely following these serious developments and we expect that they will have a considerable impact on our interests with these countries and the European Continent in general.

5. At level of the Nonaligned Movement:

Egypt played a central role in consultations to prepare for the Nonaligned Movement's meeting in Belgrade and contributed its efforts to developing the movement. It also participated in the 15-state economic committee which was formed to develop a common stand on issues which concern the countries of the South, such as foreign debts, terms of trade, and commodity prices, and to prepare for the desired dialogue with the North.

In collaboration with Senegal, India, and Venezuela, Egypt launched an initiative to revive the North-South dialogue during the summit of industrialized countries in Paris last July. Yugoslavia, in its capacity as chairman of the current nonaligned session, later sponsored the initiative. A meeting was held in France between representatives of the sponsoring states and their counterparts in industrialized countries to discuss the convocation of a summit meeting involving the heads of sponsoring as well as industrialized states next year.

6. At the Asian level:

Egypt pays special attention to its relations with Asian states and to ways of benefiting from their experience and enhancing trade exchange. It also coordinates and consults with the countries of this continent, particularly Japan and the PRC, on issues of common interest.

7. The two superpowers:

Egypt's relationship with the United States is marked by mutual respect and cordiality. The contacts held by the Egyptian leadership played a significant role in convincing the U.S. side of the need to initiate a dialogue with the PLO, to declare a clear U.S. stand on the principles of a Middle East settlement, and to make an effective contribution to efforts designed to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Our relations with the Soviet Union have witnessed a noticeable improvement in recent years, thanks to the new policies pursued by President Gorbachev, which are followed with interest and appreciation.

Egypt welcomes the superpower detente because of its potential positive effect on regional issues, particularly the Palestinian problem, the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Ladies and gentlemen: Allow me, before I end my speech, to thank you for your kind invitation and express my best wishes. May the Almighty guide your steps toward serving the interests of the people and the homeland. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Military Talks With Kuwaiti Delegation Begin

NC2611110289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0851 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—An expanded session of military talks were held this morning between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti delegations led by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, Egyptian minister of defense and military production, and Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti defense minister. Also attending the meeting on the Egyptian side were Lieutenanat General 'Ala'-al-Din Barakat, Air Force commander; Lieutenanat General Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, commander of the naval forces; Lieutenanat General Mustafa al-Shadhili, commander of the air defense forces; Major General 'Adil al-Qadi, chairman of the training department; Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, chairman of the armament department; and Major General Sayyid Turk, Defense Ministry secretary general. Members of the delegation accompanying al-Ahmad attended for the Kuwaiti side.

The session of talks was preceded by a separate meeting between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti defense ministers. They exchanged shields and souvenirs on the occasion of the Kuwaiti minister's visit to Egypt.

Following the talks, Gen Abu-Talib stated that the Egyptian and Kuwaiti delegations reached complete agreement. He noted that the Kuwaiti minister praised the full cooperation between the two countries and the standard of Egyptian weapons and equipment, which he described as matching the highest standards. The Kuwaiti minister also praised the Egyptian military industry and the high level of the Egyptian military commands and trainers. He stresed the need to continue and expand bilateral cooperation. Abu-Talib said that technical committees have been set up to consider various aspects of military ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Minister

NC2611114389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir at the presidential palace at noon today. Attending the meeting were General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production; and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt 'Abd-al-Razzq al-Kandari. [passage omitted]

Asked about the military maneuvers Iran is currently conducting in the Gulf, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that every country has a right to conduct maneuvers in its territorial waters at any time.

Asked about military cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait and about the weapons that Kuwait imported from Egypt, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation is long-standing and is steadily growing. He said the weapons that Kuwait recently imported from Egypt are advanced, effective, and rival the advanced countries' products. He pointed out that talks are currently under way between experts from both countries to sign contracts for new arms deals.

Defense Minister Abu-Talib stressed that relations between Kuwait and Egypt are good, particularly in training, qualification, and armaments. He said that military cooperation between the two countries is at the highest level, adding that the visit by the Kuwaiti defense minister will further advance the development of this cooperation.

Air Defense System Discussed

NC2611163289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has praised the Egyptian military industries and the Egyptian air defense forces.

This came in a statement made by the Kuwaiti minister following his visit today to one of the air defense units during which he attended a practical demonstration of the air defense systems AMUN-1 and AMUN-2 which Kuwait has contracted to buy from Egypt. [passage omitted]

At the start of the visit, Shaykh Nawwaf was briefed on the AMUN-2 system, which is part of the al-Mubarakiyah program and the result of cooperation with fraternal Kuwait. The system, which will become operational in Kuwait early next April, is considered one of the most advanced systems for short-range air defense as it can deal efficiently with low and very low flying aircraft to protect air bases and land formations.

A number of modifications have been made to the Egyptian air defense system AMUN-1 in cooperation with the Kuwaiti side under the al-Mubarakiyah program. The modifications, which will better suit Kuwait's terrain and field of operations, include a reduction in the number of crew members needed to operate the system to 2 officers and 12 soldiers instead of 4 officers and 16 soldiers. The system has also been supplied with two computerized systems for automatic loading and is able to use more than one type of missile. Other modifications provide the system with the necessary protection and with an identification system compatible with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces' weapons. [passage omitted]

The new AMUN-2 system consists of two 35-mm guns, two four-barrelled launchers, and a ground radar. It can deal with low and very low flying aircraft up to an altitude of 4,000 meters and with three targets simultaneously, as well as with armored vehicles as secondary targets. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on Arab Cooperation, Israel

JN2611124189 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Nov 89 pp 24, 25

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, by Sana' al-Sa'id—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Sa'id] What about the projects within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] in the area of petroleum, especially after the meeting of the petroleum ministers of the four countries—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and North Yemen—last month in preparation for the ACC summit to be held in February in Amman?

[Qandil] We are setting the correct beginning for true economic cooperation among the four Arab countries. The process is not one of hoisting slogans and placards. Right from the start, we sat down together and agreed to avoid action not suitable to any of the four states in a way that would truly express feasible projects acceptable to the four countries.

Our meetings in Baghdad last month were very constructive. We adopted a few projects either having to do specifically with expansions, or unifying specifications, or joint training among the four countries. For example, we excluded some aspects such as petrochemicals, because they do not fall within the realm of the specialization of any of the ACC countries. Therefore, the meetings were postponed to a later date. Since then we have been exchanging the necessary information and there are mutual visits of experts taking place these days. We have already set the broad lines for an agreement. We hope to hear good things about it after it is approved in February during the ACC summit.

[Al-Sa'id] What is happening in the area of joint cooperation with Libya after the improvement of relations? Could one say that there is true cooperation between Egypt and Libya in the petroleum field?

[Qandil] The fields of cooperation between Egypt and Libya could be very great and at the same time, not so great. This depends on the readiness of Libya itself. Cooperation with Libya from our point of view is a political decision which should be implemented with great precision. As long as the decision has been made at the level of the heads of state, it fully expresses the opinion of the state. Based on this, an invitation was sent to brother Libyan Petroleum Minister al-Shakshuki to visit Egypt. We will agree on specifying the date and starting cooperation. In general, there is joint cooperation within the framework of one of the companies belonging to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC], the Petroleum Services Company based in Libya. There is a great deal of cooperation between this company and the Egyptian Drilling Company owned by the Egyptian Petroleum Commission. We are ready to provide any help asked of us. We are also ready for any joint projects and hope to broaden this cooperation.

During the recent Egyptian-Libyan meeting, an agreement in principle was reached to establish a joint company between the two countries. However, it is important to specify the framework within which this company will operate. We welcome Libya if it wants to invest part of its funds in oil exploration in Egypt. Let it bring with it advanced technology and assume the risk of such an exploration according to the framework of the current prevailing oil agreements in Egypt. Besides Libya, there are companies from the other Arab countries. There is a Kuwaiti company and another from Sharjah. We are ready to cooperate with the Arab brothers on the condition they bring with them advanced technology, use it in Egypt, and assume the risks that result from exploration. Any party can come to Egypt, and the Egyptian Petroleum Commission will then supply them with the necessary documents to facilitate their task.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Israeli tanker "Nyeta" that Egyptian authorities recently impounded for 17 days because it polluted the Suez Canal waters, and nearly caused a political crisis between the two countries when Israeli circles threatened to suspend the import of oil from Egypt?

[Qandil] First of all, with respect to the purchase and sale of oil, Egypt does not deal with countries. There is no agreement that binds Israel to purchase oil from Egypt, and vice versa. There is no binding obligation. Therefore, Israel is free to decide not to purchase Egyptian oil. It is completely free to make such a decision. We are also free to make the necessary decision that suits Egypt's interests. In any case, the peace treaty contains a clause that stipulates that Israel can participate in bids to purchase Egyptian oil and will be treated the same way as the other countries. If it expresses such a desire, we welcome it. If not, it is free to do whatever it wants. I would like to emphasize here that we deal with Israeli companies and not with the state of Israel, because we prefer not to link busines relations to political relations. This is to avoid business relations being affected in case political relations become tense.

[Al-Sa'id] The oil tanker's impoundment created an uproar in Israeli political circles. They made so much of the incident that they threatened to stop buying Egyptian oil claiming that Egypt had exaggerated its charges about the tanker and impounded it for a longer period than was necessary.

[Qandil] Under no circumstances do we work in the heightened emotions of some of our neighbors. We take things very calmly. During much darker times than these, we did not breach the contracts we had signed with Israeli and non-Israeli companies. However, concerning this tanker, I believe that Egypt exercised its constitutional rights in having reservations about the tanker because it polluted Egyptian waters. Polluting Egyptian waters is a crime punishable by Egyptian and international law. Perhaps certain measures might have taken time before the tanker could be released, but Israel exaggerated things as though the charges were directed against it, whereas in fact they were directed against the captain of the ship, as happens at Cairo airport or elsewhere. I was abroad when the takker was impounded. When I came back and learned of the news, I hastened to contact my colleague Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd [Egyptian minister of cabinet affairs] and told him that it was possible to get a financial guarantee specified by Egypt instead of impounding the tanker.

Based on this, the tanker was released and Egypt took the guarantees—$1.5 million—and other measures are still being undertaken. It was a very ordinary operation and Israel had no right to exaggerate the issue while dealing with this subject. It was handled very calmly in Egypt, even if rather slowly. In Israel however, it was handled very emotionally, not appropriate to ordinary trade and to a tanker that polluted the waters. This is what I explained to my colleague in Israel, Moshe Shahal [minister of energy and infrastructure], and what I confirmed to representatives from the Petroleum Commission who came from Israel and to the owners of the tanker when I met them in Cairo. I told them that there had been no need to create such a clamor and react so emotionally, which could harm Egyptian-Israeli relations, unless the intention inside Israel was to harm these relations. This is a great mistake one should be very careful about. We, as two nations, searched for peace and found it. The coming generations are also replete with the idea of peace. If we allow flare-ups on matters like this, it will be as though we intentionally wish to strike at peace and destroy it. This is what happened on the Israeli side, not the Egyptian. [passage omitted]

Repudiation, Renunciation Society Reorganizes

JN2611155089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo—New interrogations of a number of members of the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation in Egypt have revealed that this society has reorganized its ranks in Cairo, Alexandria, al-Jizah, and in a number of governorates in Upper Egypt.

The members of the society who were arrested said that the society has succeeded in recruiting new members among young people belonging to Islamic groups, and that it has set up a plan to create confusion among the people on the pretext of the deteriorating economic situation, and to step into the arena semipublicly under the new name of the "Society of Muslims" [Jama'at al-Muslimin].

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that interrogations have been completed of 100 members of this society, whose leader, Shukri Ahmad Mustafa, was executed several years ago.

Libya

Arab People's Congress on Bush-Gorbachev Meeting

LD2711121289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Nov 89, (JANA/ALL-ARAB MAGHREB UNION)—Participants in the second session of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress have strongly criticized the Gorbachev-Bush meeting, which is to be held in Malta. They consider the nature and venue of the meeting a provocation against the peoples of the region, and warned against any tempering with the rights of the peoples. They also urged the Soviet Union not to fall victim of the deception of imperialist forces.

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Supports' Talks

LD2711180689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 27 November, JANA—REUTER, the West German Press Agency (DPA), and the Voice of America have quoted the Maltese prime minister as saying: "Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi supports the upcoming talks between the Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the U.S. President George Bush."

JANA's international affairs editor has commented on this and said: "We have already stated that we are not basically opposed to the meeting between the superpowers per se, since it helps bring about a better climate and contributes to resolving the problems of the cold and hot wars which could be detrimental to the world."

The editor added: "But our opposition has to do with the form and the place (of the meeting) which arouse (our) aversion. We still consider it (the meeting) as an uncivilized manifestation and a form of muscle-flexing which suggests a definite threat. It also reminds us of that meeting held between Stalin and Roosevelt which then had to do with the division of the world."

The editor went on to say that "since the Great Jamahiriyah is a civilized state which speaks on behalf of a great nation founded on civilized values and high ideals deeply rooted in history, it still strongly opposes the choice of that place. It is thus in keeping with the feelings and sentiments of the peoples (living in the states) overlooking the Mediterranean Sea."

JANA's international affairs editor also said that "the astonishing thing is the fact that the conferees will be moving from one ship to another in the same place from where U.S. warplanes took off to strike at our children, our people, and our women. This constitutes in its essence a manifestation of war and involves a harmful threat to the peoples of the Mediterranean, whereas these two states are not even among the littoral states of the Mediterranean Sea."

Peace Committee To Demonstrate

LD2511111789 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth 24 [24 November] Arab Maghreb Union's Pool/JANA—The Peace Committee in the Mediterranen set up by the standing secretariat of the Organization of the Progressive Socialists will stage a peace demonstration in Malta on 2 and 3 next Kanon [December] during the Bush-Gorbachev summit.

People's delegations from various regions in the Mediterranean apart from other progressive and socialist movements, organizations, and parties and distinquished peoples worldwide are participating in this demonstration.

This demonstration aims at expressing the demands of the peoples of this region to achieve peace and security in the area.

The following slogans will be chanted for by the demonstrators:

1-Peace in the Mediterranean is peace for the world.

2-Nuclear disarmament in the Mediterranean.

3-Withdrawal of all fleets and the cancellation of all foriegn bases from the Mediterranean.

4-Call for solidarity and alli [as received] be of the leaders of the socialist and progressive forces in the region.

Also, sources of the above organization have pointed out that the Peace Committee in the Mediterranean will hold its 4th regular meeting in Malta to study the new developments in the region. This meeting wil coincide with the Bush-Gorbachev upcoming summit on board two military warships causing anxiety in relation to security and future of this region which is being fixed by foreign powers and without taking into consideration the will of its peoples.

This committee has released a communique regarding this summit as a perpetuation to the presence of the superpowers in the Mediterranean which represents a challenge to the desire of the peoples of this region.

Arab League Spokesman Cited on Planned Meeting

LD2511175789 Tripoli JANA in English 1453 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli 25 Al-Harth [November], JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The foreign ministers of the League of Arab States are to hold an emergency meeting tomorrow in Tunis.

A spokesman for the League of Arab States said that the meeting is to consider what he described as peace initiatives on the Middle East and amongst them the so-called the American Secretary of State James Baker's plan on the Palestinian issue.

The editor of Arab affairs in JANA described the attempt to Arabize Baker's plan as negligence, betrayal, and attempt which must be rejected.

He pointed out that after the establishment of the state of Palestine and it becomes a state it should conduct its affairs in a bilateral manner and this state which embroiled the Arabs in Dar al Baidha must not embroil them once again by recognizing the Zionist enemy that recognition which was carried out through the PLO. [sentence as received]

He added the Arabs will be embroiled through the recognition of the proposals of the American secretary of state.

The editor of Arab affairs in JANA asserted that Great Jamahiriyah rejects in an unequivocal manner this logic and will not accept it and if Jamahiryah attended such a meeting it would strongly oppose this direction.

He said that the Arab nation should not be let to be embroiled in such treacherous manoeuvers and that the Arab nation has a firm stance—it is the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea.

The editor of Arab affairs in JANA made clear that anyone wishing to conduct such manoeuvers must not embroil others in them and must conduct them by himself.

The editor said that in light of developments which began emerging on the world political situation and the changes being seen by the map of the post 2nd World War, work must be done to find an alternative homeland for the Jews. In light of these developments there is hope before the Jews to return to their countries or to have an alternative homeland in Alsace and Loraine or in Alaska or one of the Baltic Republics while the Palestinian Arab people must return to a whole Palestine from the river to the sea.

He pointed out that the return of the Palestinian Arab people will be carried out if not peacefully it will be by other means.

The editor said that anyone who came to Palestine as an alien or coloniser must pay the price for that.

The editor emphaised the opposition of Great Jamahiryah to this embroilment conducted by the PLO and if the Palestinian state was in fact set up and it has its bilateral relations with other countries it must conduct these relations for itself without embroiling others in them and that the acceptance of the proposals of the American secretary of state is a matter which soley concerns the Palestinian state and it is for it to accept or refuse them if it were a state based on foundations free from the tutilage from those meetings.

JANA Editor Warning Over EC Arab Dialogue

LD2511233189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] It was recently announced in Paris that an Arab-European dialogue would soon begin and that the EC discussed the dialogue at its recent meeting in Paris. The JANA political editor comments on that saying: Convening such a meeting at Arab and European foreign ministerial level constitutes an imperialist conspiracy designed to undermine Arab cooperation and solidarity and the Arab League. It also constitutes a conspiracy directed at undermining the Arab Maghreb Union and its unity.

The editor points out that the EC has placed the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria on a black and embargo list. The editor says that the EC wants Arabs to meet them on this basis without the precondition of lifting the embargo on the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria. The editor stresses that if such a meeting takes place while the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria are still on the blacklist, it will be a catastrophe for Arab countries.

The JANA political editor says that the Great Jamahiriyah will not accept the convening of the meeting according to European conditions and the presence of Arab agents in its territory [as heard], it will not provide any loans or assistance to Arab countries and will not cooperate with any Arab country, and will then consider itself without any contact with any Arab country that attends such a meeting.

The editor adds that the Great Jamahiriyah will place the Arab countries which attend that meeting on a blacklist, and will be forced to deal with them as though they were European countries, unless the embargo on the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria is lifted by the European countries before the meeting or a condition is made prior to the meeting aimed at achieving that objective. The editor says that without these conditions, the meeting will be directed at undermining the Arab Maghreb unity and the unity of the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and that of the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

The editor points out that the Great Jamahiriyah, in view of it being the only territory open to Arabs, has become full of hundreds of thousands of Arab workers who come to it seeking a living. The Great Jamahiriyah provides great financial loans and development aid to Arab countries. Therefore if the Arab countries consent to meet the EC which has boycotted the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria—it will be tantamount to a colonial conspiracy through which the interests of the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf will be endangered by the Arab governments which attend such a meeting according to European conditions.

Tripoli Cites Panamanian Envoy's U.S. Threat

NC2811091589 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Panamanian ambassador in the Great Jamahiriyah has asserted that the Panamanian people will attack the U.S. military bases in the Panama Canal zone should America launch an assault on Lieutenant General Manuel Noriega, commander of the national defense forces in Panama.

At a meeting with a number of political mission members accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah, the Panamanian ambassador reviewed the psychological and military war America is waging against the Panamanian people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Pakistani Foreign Minister

LD2411095289 Tripoli JANA in English 1834 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Al-Harth [November], JANA-Arab Maghreb Union Pool—The leader of the revolution received Sahabzada Yaqub Khan the foreign minister of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau.

Social Security Agreement Signed With Pakistan

BK2411160889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Pakistan and Libya have signed an agreement on social security to provide protection to Pakistanis working in Libya. The agreement was signed at the end of the 11th session of the Pakistan-Libya joint ministerial commission held 20-22 November, in which Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Libyan counterpart Jadallah led their country's delegations. They agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, industrial, and agricultural fields and to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of arts and culture.

PDRY Delegation Arrives in Tripoli 21 Nov

LD2211102189 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Al-Harth [November], JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Bin Husaynun, vice-premier and minister of energy in South Yemen, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday afternoon on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriya to attend the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Yemeni committee. Commenting to JANA, Mr Bin Husaynun has pointed out that this committee will focus at its meetings on the exploration of ways to promoting the technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

He has stressed the importance of these meetings in strengthening the ties of brotherhood among the one Arab people in both countries to repulse side by side the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Joint Committee Session Opens

LD2211102989 Tripoli JANA in English 1844 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Al-Harth [November] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The sessions of the joint Libyan Arab-Yemeni committee for informational, health and economic cooperation started in Tripoli today.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Marine Wealth addressed the opening session welcoming the Arab delegation from South Yemen.

He said: "With all our feelings we are following the events in both North and South Yemens. We are awaiting the unity of the one Arab Yemen on the road of the aspired pan-Arab unity.

"We shall work with all our potentials to develop cooperation and promote it to achieve the goals and interests of both brotherly peoples in Great Jamahiriya and South Yemen."

Salih Abu Bakr Bin Husaynun, the member of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, gave a speech also praising the giant cultural achievements of the Libyan Arab people—thanks to the great al-Fatah revolution—in various fields.

He said: "Such great achievements and gains are considered gains for the whole Arab nation and a big progress on the road of achieving decent living.

He confirmed the standing of the Arab people of South Yemen by its brother the Libyan Arab people in its brave confrontation with all imperialist attempts aimed at touching the dignity and the pride of the Libyan Arab people and its cultural gains.

During the opening session, 3 committees were formed to discuss matters related to the development of all informational, health, educational, training, economic, financial, investment, and oil fields to accomplish a variety of programmes to boost the existing cooperation to serve the interest of both brotherly peoples of Great Jamahiriya and South Yemen.

Taking part in the work of this committee are many technical experts from both sisterly countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Maltese, Tunisian Visitors

LD2711034389 Tripoli JANA in English 1820 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Al-Harth [November], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution today received the prime minister of Malta Edward Fenech Adami.

Present at the reception were the secretary of the general people's committee and the secretary of the people's committee for the people's bureau for foreign liaison and international cooperation. The leader of the revolution also today received the Tunisian minister of the interior Chadli Neffati.

Maltese Prime Minister Departs

LD2711185189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Nov—The prime minister of Malta, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli yesterday evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation.

Somali Presidential Envoy Arrives in Tripoli

NC2811092589 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Brigadier General Said Abdalla Omar, deputy commander in chief of the Somali Armed Forces, chief of staff of the Somali Navy, and the personal envoy of Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, arrived in Tripoli last night for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He is accompanied by a delegation.

Libyan Opposition Issues Statement on 'Torture'

NC1311164589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] The National Front for the Salvation of Libya released a statement in London today, saying thousands of Libyans are being tortured in their homeland. It urged all nations and international organizations to intervene to save them.

Sudan

Carter Lauds Sudanese Acceptance of Talks

EA2211103289 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Nairobi, 21 Nov (SUNA)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has lauded the positive response by the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement in agreeing to engage in peace talks in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, at the beginning of December. He expressed the praise while addressing the second meeting of the preparatory negotiations between the Ethiopian Government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, which began in Nairobi yesterday. Carter expressed appreciation to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi for hosting the Sudanese peace negotiations.

Announces Agreement To Hold Talks

LD2711145189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Excerpt] On 20 November 1989 the military junta issued final orders to their troops in Dondoro to move to recapture Kurmuk, Shali [al-Fil] and [Khawr] Yabus. The order was issued soon after former President Carter announced in Nairobi that the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] and the junta had agreed to hold preliminary peace talks in Nairobi on 1 December. The junta's offensive is code-named Jund Allah or Soldiers of God.

SPLA sources in Damazin and Dondoro have revealed that the force is divided into four battle groups. The fourth battle group, commanded by Colonel Ibrahim 'Ali

(Habana) with Lt Col Muhammad (Brima) Burmah as deputy and Lt Col PSC [Passed Staff College] Yusuf Sabun as the operational officer, have already made contacts with the SPLA forces of the New Funj under the SPLA commandos, CDR William Nyuan Bany [Deng].

However, the junta's offensive has run into serious difficulties. On Friday, 24 November 1989, troops' refusal to advance exploded into an open bloody mutiny and rebellion. Since then, 182 soldiers, mostly from Nubah and southern nationalities, have been disarmed and sent back to Damazin for court-martial.

During the disarmament 13 soldiers were killed and several others wounded. On the way to Damazin the truck stopped and 24 prisoners were marched and shot to death in cold blood behind a hill with their bodies left to the birds. Disarmament of dissident soldiers in Dondoro, Shaali, and Damazin is continuing. [passage omitted]

Chadian Government Forces Leave Darfur Region

EA2811154289 Khartoum SUNA in English 0919 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)—Chadian Government forces which entered Sudan recently have pulled out of Sudanese territories following a statement by the Foreign Ministry, Command Council member Brig al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir [Said]. Brig Tahir told the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" today, that there are still Chad opposition troops inside Darfur Region confined to specific areas. Brig Tahir said diplomatic contacts are going on to put an end to the presence of these troops in Darfur Region.

U.S. Congressmen Cited on Relief Flights

EA2411124789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Seven American congressmen headed by the chairman of the Select Committee on Hunger have sent a strong-worded letter to the leader of the junta, 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, in Khartoum expressing their concern over Al-Bashir's decision to suspend relief flights to southern Sudan. The congressmen also urged the junta to continue efforts to discuss ways to end the conflict with responsible officials of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. The full text of the letter reads as follows:

Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir,
President, Republic of the Sudan, Khartoum
Dear Mr President:

We write to express our concern over your recent decision to suspend relief flights of Operation Lifeline Sudan. We believe that every effort must be made by you and all parties to this conflict to minimize the harm done to civilians. Operation Lifeline Sudan has shown that it is possible to cooperate to save innocent lives. Such cooperation must continue. Relief and rehabilitation efforts certainly remain a key part of humanitarian response to the conflict. We also urge you to continue efforts to discuss ways to end this conflict with responsible officials of the SPLA.

Finally, we would like to indicate our interest in the status of eight UN employees who remain caught in what had been a corridor of tranquillity to Malakal. We respectfully ask that every effort be made to ensure their safety. We hope that it will soon be possible for all Sudanese to move beyond conflict and begin the work of social and economic development.

The letter was signed by: Tony P. Hall, chairman, Select Committee on Hunger; Bill Emerson, vice chairman, Select Committee on Hunger; Byron l. Dorgan, chairman, international task force, Select Committee on Hunger; Doug Bereuter, vice chairman, international task force, Select Committee on Hunger; Gary L. Ackerman, member of Congress; Elizabeth Patterson, member of Congress; and Frank Wolf, member of Congress.

Al-Bashir Returns From Egypt After Talks

EA2411152589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0929 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir returned home yesterday after a short visit to Egypt. During his several hours visit, Gen al-Bashir had talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and co-ordination in Arab, African, and international issues.

Deputy Premier Meets Chadian Delegation

EA2411154189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Today Brigadier al-Zibyar Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, had a meeting at his office at the secretariat general of the council of ministers with the Chadian delegation led by Mr Korom Ahmed, minister delegate of the Chadian Presidency.

Following the meeting, Mr Korom stated that he had delivered a letter from the Chadian President Hissein Habre on relations between the two countries. The meeting was attended by Ustadh 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister. Ustadh Ali Shummu stated that Brig al-Zibyar had discussed with the Chadian delegation the issue of the breakaway Chadian forces which are inside Sudanese territory. Brig al-Zibyar assured the Chadian delegation that Sudan was anxious for there to be friendly relations between the two countries, adding that the Chadian delegation had expressed its wish that bilateral relations should be strengthened. The two sides agreed on further bilateral dialogue.

SPLA Reports 40 Executions by Government

EA2211214089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sources in Khartoum have informed Radio SPLA that the number of the government soldiers executed between the period of 14th to 17th November 1989 on suspicion that they were SPLA supporters has risen to 40—26 southerners and 14 Nubahs. Our sources revealed that the executions took place at (?Markhayyat) hill west of Omdurman.

Last Sunday, 19 November, both the international and local media reported the execution of 21 soldiers in Khartoum by the junta. The victims of this callous act were never investigated, nor were they even given a chance for a trial.

More Than 100 Citizens Killed in 'Cold Blood'

EA2411105189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Nov 89

[From the series "With the Battalions"]

[Excerpt] Comrades in struggle: A few weeks ago another human tragedy similar to that of al-Du'ayn in 1986 struck a section of the Sudanese community in Lagowa in South Kurdufan. More than 100 innocent citizens of Nubah nationality, including women and children, were killed in cold blood by the Misiriyyah Arab militia. According to the reports, the incident came up as a result of a minor quarrel between a Nubah girl and an Arab boy. When the father of the girl tried to ask for the reasons of the quarrel, he was shot dead by the Misiriyyah militia who were standing by and who later ran amok, killing every Nubah they could set their eyes on, as well as looting and burning the houses of the Nubahs.

The incident followed an announcement by the junta for the formation of what they called a popular defense force. This leads one to conclude that the Misiriyyah militiamen were acting upon the instigation of the authorities. Evidence that this genocidal act was perpetrated against those innocent and law-abiding citizens with the official sanction of the government in Khartoum is overwhelming for the following reasons:

1. The people who took refuge at the police station were not accorded any slightest protection, and they were mowed down in the presence of the police and their killers were left to go unpunished.

2. The government does not seem to investigate and to bring the culprits to book.

3. The junta's announcement that there was fighting in Lagowa between the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and their forces and that this was what precipitated the massacre was a lie intended to distract the people's opinion and to cover up the barbaric deeds of the junta.

Catholic Bishops Decry Treatment of Citizens

EA2411110689 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Today in Khartoum the bishops' conference is convening at the archbishop's headquarters in al-Riyad Town [in Khartoum]. During their deliberations, the Khartoum archbishop and the chairman of the conference, Archbishop Gabriel Zubeir, had this to say:

[Begin Zubeir recording] Vice President of the Revolutionary Council, in the first place I ask you to excuse me if the introduction of the letter of our speech [as heard] is addressed to his excellency, the president of the Revolutionary Council, but as you represent him here we feel that whatever we express here applies also to you. Your Execellency, the peace of God be upon you. We [words indistinct] great gratitude. We welcome you to the general secretariat of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference. Your visit today to this secretariat to meet the Catholic bishops of the Sudan is an honor that will not be forgotten. We will continue to appreciate this gesture of respect for a long time to come.

This is our first meeting with you since the revolution. We therefore implore God's blessing on you and on our government and pray that He may support with His powers all you plan to accomplish for the good of the country and its people. We also assure you of our cooperation and support in the service of the people, particularly those who are most in need. This is our duty both as citizens and religious leaders.

Your Excellency, when you took up the reins of government of the country, we were overjoyed at the statement you have kept repeating ever since, namely that the aim of the revolution is to ensure that there is respect for all Sudanese irrespective of their race, social status, place of origin or religion and that the revolution was committed to uphold the rights of all, particularly those of the weak and the poor. Without even entering any negotiations for peace, such a program itself has all in it to restore peace and stability to our country. It is our conviction that peace and justice do not need to await the outcome of the peace negotiations. Justice, respect, equality, and freedom for each and every citizen sufficed to heal world wars and to establish understanding among the peoples.

We know how difficult it is to reconcile ideas with life. In spite of that we encourage your excellecny to adopt these ideas resolutely. They are the only sure path to (?create) peace in the country. We venture to point out that a program based on justice, respect, equality, and freedom for all will fail if, for instance, certain groups are allowed to call or treat other groups of citizens as if they did not belong, or keep them under continuous surveillance or suspicion. Such things continue, unfortunately, to happen. We simply want to point out that they are a greater threat to peace than war itself, because they undermine one big asset to peace—mutual trust among citizens. We wish to express to you our support for your efforts to restore peace to the country, especially the forthcoming negotiations without preconditions with the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]. May God grant all those seated at the negotiating table wisdom and a genuine concern for the welfare of the Sudanese people. And even if that fails, it is for the good of our people that new avenues for peace be sought.

Your Excellency, basing ourselves on your declared policy to uphold the rights of the poor and the needy and to better their conditions of life, we want to plead with you in this meeting to reopen the way so that relief food and other items may be taken to places in southern Sudan or elswhere that are fast running short of food. These bishops here come from the places to which I am referring.

We take this opportunity also to make known some of our concerns as leaders of the Catholic Church in Sudan. The first concern is our identity. We are Sudanese without doubt. It pains us very much, however, to see how often we are treated as foreigners, how our activities are continuously suspected, how accusations without basis are levelled against us and how sometimes our basic religious rights and those (?of other) Christians are denied. It is now 27 years that the churches are restricted and unjustly treated by [word indistinct] (?and Missionary Societies) Act 1962. Time and again we have asked for the abrogation of this act, [word indistinct] every year for 27 years, but to no avail, because [words indistinct] today we cannot get permits to build churches or prayer centers.

Certain areas of the Sudan are out of bounds for Christians, and if they happen to be there, they are not allowed to pray together or have a decent place to pray (?in). In addition to restrictions regarding our religious and social activities we very much regret to mention that the public media insists on carrying on an anti-Christian propaganda and using offenisve language on state-owned media which are meant to build bridges of trust and understanding among the people instead of causing division. We want to restate that we are citizens of the Sudan, and this is our country and we are as concerned for it as anybody else, and this fact is not changed by our being Christians. What we ask for is only respect for us and freedom like every citizen to practice our faith both in private and in public without being put to ridicule or obliged [words indistinct] and claim our rights from generation to generation.

Within our secretariat here we run a humanitarian organization for relief and development which is commonly known as Sudan Aid. We wish to inform your excellency that this organization belongs to the Catholic Mission to the Sudan. It was founded by the mission in 1972 and has been run by us all this time and it is, therefore, a Sudanese organization. Through it we have been able to assist our people, all of them without distinction as regards race or religion, and our presence has been felt much, especially during the droughts in 1985 when we certainly spearheaded the relief efforts and also during the recent floods and other natural disasters in the country. We have ferried relief and initiated development projects practically all over the Sudan, since each of the bishops—and we are spread all over the Sudan—has an office of this Sudan Aid for carrying out relief and development work in collaboration with the government and other organisations that work in the area.

Of late we have faced a number of difficulties which truly handicapped us and our work. We are not the losers, but the Sudanese people, particularly, those who are most in need.

The main obstacle to our work is the recent withdrawal of customs exemption, particularly regarding vehicles, without which no food can be transported and no field supervision is possible. And as for the recent—we have already presented this on many occasions—that the cars, our cars, the new cars have been given government plates and so are under the same regulations of government cars, which, since we work with a timetable—that is any time people are in need—it has become extremely difficult and insecure for us to move out in the afternoons because of these plates. [sentence as heard] And there is always the danger that these cars can be confiscated by officials who do not know that these cars belong to the church and to Sudan Aid.

Our final concern—it is a concern we would [words indistinct] with you—is for the church personnel who are trapped in the war zones, particularly the case of one of us, Bishop Harige Bagana, who had to stay in Torit with the people out of a sense of duty. The captain of the ship must sink with his ship. Their position [words indistinct] or be misunderstood, and we want to explain that the church and her services to people knows no boundaries. Wherever people are in need, there the church has to be. I mean we cannot just (?rush) for the [words indistinct]. And since everywhere people will continue to practice their religion also, then they will need the support of church personnel.

Your Excellency, we want to thank you very much for honoring this session of our conference with your presence. We (?would like) to support you in your endeavours for the good of our country and our people. [end recording]

New Opposition Group Urges 'Civil Disobedience'

AB2511102789 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] A Sudanese opposition group, the National Democratic Alliance, has issued a formal statement of opposition to the military council that seized power in Khartoum at the end of June. The statement is said to have the backing of 12 political parties including the Ummah and the Democratic Unionist, as well as a number of trade union and professional bodies.

It calls for a campaign of civil disobedience and an escalation of popular resistance to the military government of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The statement accuses the National Islamic Front of trying to establish what it calls a nightmarish religious state and demands the abolition of the version of Islamic law imposed on the country in 1983. The statement also urges the setting up of a new transitional government.

A BBC Cairo correspondent says the statement demonstrates that opposition to the Sudanese Government is by no means confined to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels in the south of the country.

Officials on Relief Efforts, Operation Lifeline

EA2411110389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Peter Urath Ador, minister of relief and migrants, held a meeting in his office today with Muhammad Shawqi, commissioner general of relief and reconstruction; Michael Priestley, resident representative for the UN's relief program in Sudan and official responsible for Operation Lifeline; and the EEC representative. The participants in the meeting discussed the departure of the fifth relief train in the framework of Operation Lifeline and the relief situation in the southern regions. Another meeting will be held on Saturday 25 November, to follow up the practical steps taken regarding the departure of the train.

Blue Nile Province Commissioner Sworn In

EA2411160789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Summary] Hamid Muhammad 'Ali Nurayn has been sworn in as commissioner of Blue Nile Province in the presence of Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers.

Bahrain

Amir Cables Condolences on Mu'awwad's Death

JN2311152089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, 23 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has denounced yesterday's disgraceful attack on the life of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad.

In a cable today to Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, said: We have learned with grief and anguish about the painful incident against the life of President Mu'awwad, whose election at this critical stage of Lebanon's history had been an expression of the spirit of Lebanese accord.

His highness added: We denounce this heinous attack, which was designed to prevent Lebanon from overcoming its ordeal, and we hope that the rightful forces will be reunited to entrench the pillars of legitimacy in Lebanon as soon as possible and continue the march that has already begun toward national accord.

In his cable, his highness the amir said the State of Bahrain shares this grief with the Lebanese people and extends to them and to the family of the deceased sincerest condolences.

Amir Congratulates Lebanese President Al-Harawi

JN2511124689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has congratulated Lebanese President-elect Ilyas al-Harawi. This came in a cable his highness the amir sent to President al-Harawi on his election as president of Lebanon yesterday. In the cable the amir of Bahrain expressed his congratulations to the new president and wishes of success for the achievement of the Lebanese people's aspirations and hopes of security, stability, and peace. [passage omitted]

Deputy Amir Receives Iraqi Defense Minister

JN2511105689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, 25 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, today received Iraqi Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal. During the meeting they reviewed current bilateral relations and ways to reinforce cooperation between Bahrain and Iraq. They also reviewed the regional situation and developments in the Arab arena, in addition to issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force; and Taha Mahmud al-Qaysi, Iraqi ambassador to Bahrain.

Ministers Begin Official Talks

JN2611115989 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, Nov 26, INA—Formal talks started here today between visiting Iraqi Defence Minister General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and Major General Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al-Thani, Bahraini defence minister and deputy commander in chief of the Defence Force.

INA correspondent reported that the two ministers talks dealt with means of boosting bilateral cooperation between the Iraqi and Bahraini armed forces, current situation in the Arab Gulf region and other Arab and international developments.

The talks were attended by the military delegation accompanying General Shanshal and several high ranking Bahraini military officers.

The Iraqi defence minister arrived in Bahrain yesterday on a few-day official visit.

Iraqi Minister Concludes Visit

JN2811094589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 28 Nov (WAKH)—His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, the Bahraini deputy amir, this morning held talks with Iraqi Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal. Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander of the Bahraini Defense Force; Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, chief of staff; and Taha Mahmud al-Qaysi, the Iraqi ambassador to Bahrain, attended the meeting. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

The Iraqi defense minister this morning left Manama for his country following an official visit to Bahrain which lasted for several days at the invitation of the Bahraini deputy amir. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Saudi Foreign, Finance Ministers Arrive on Visit

LD1811210889 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the finance and national economy minister, arrived this afternoon in Aden at the head of a delegation from the Foreign and Finance Ministries to attend the Saudi-Yemeni joint committee meetings which will start later today. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Receives Foreign Minister

LD2011093789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0542 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Aden, 19 Nov (SPA)—The secretary general of the Socialist Party Central Committee in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, received last night in Aden His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, who is leading the Kingdom's delegation in the Saudi-Yemeni Joint Commission which is currently holding its first session in Aden, [passage omitted]

During the meeting, cooperative relations between the two brotherly countries and means of consolidation and developing them were reviewed for the benefit of the common interests of the two brotherly peoples.

The situation on the Arab arena was reviewed, and the necessity of consolidating Arab solidarity was stressed in order to face up to all the challenges encountered by the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Joint Ministerial Meeting Held

EA2111085289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] The first joint Saudi-Yemeni ministerial committee meeting, held from 18 to 19 November, ended yesterday evening.

At this committee meeting, the Yemeni delegation was headed by Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, while the delegation of the sisterly kingdom of Saudi Arabia was led by his highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs.

Participating in the meeting were: Brother Dr Ahmad Nasir al-Danani, member of the Central Committee and finance minister, and Al-Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the kingdom's minister for finance and economy.

The proceedings at the committee's meeting were characterized by friendship and brotherly frankness, and Yemeni-Saudi relations, since the signing of the agreement of principles in 1976, were reviewed and evaluated.

The foreign ministers of the two countries, in the presence of two delegations, signed the minutes of the meeting of the committee, and a protocol on the exchange of documents ratifying the economic, technical, commercial, and cultural agreement signed in Riyadh last March.

Saudi Ministers Depart

LD2011094489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, and His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy, and the delegation accompanying them left Aden last night following a 2-day visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY).

During the visit, His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal led the Kingdom's delegation to the first session of the joint Saudi-Yemeni Commission, which concluded its work last night. His Royal Highness also discussed with senior officials in PDRY the relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and ways of developing them.

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal expressed his utmost appreciation for the welcome accorded him and the delegation accompanying him, and for the fruitful results that have been achieved, results which should contribute towards the development of bilateral cooperation.

In a statement to Aden's news agency, he pointed out that an agreement on economic, technical, cultural, and commercial cooperation between the two countries has been concluded. He also said that the first joint protocol of the joint ministerial commission has been signed.

His Royal Highness Saud Al-Faysal said that the talks expressed the positive spirit which will govern the proceedings of this commission in the future, and that, God willing, it will have good, beneficial results for the two countries. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Government Statement on Lebanese Government

LD2711170289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has affirmed its total support for the new Lebanese Government and has expressed its confidence in its ability to lead Lebanon to peace. This came in a spokesman's statement today to SPA. Here follows the text of the statement:

The government of Saudi Arabia welcomes with great optimism and joy the new news of the formation of the Lebanese Government of national reconciliation. The formation of this government demonstrates the ability of the fraternal Lebanese people to consolidate Lebanon's unity, rebuild its institutions, and resume its desired role within the Arab family and in the international arena.

The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while affirming its total support for the new Lebanese Government, expresses its confidence in the latter's ability to lead Lebanon to unity, peace, and stability in order to enable it to rebuild what has been destroyed by the war and to continue its good march in concord, fraternity, and harmony.

The government of Saudi Arabia is also pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency President Ilyas al-Harawi and His Excellency the prime minister, Dr Salim al-Huss on this important step on the road of national reconciliation, wishing fraternal Lebanon all the security, peace and stability to which it aspires.

Newspapers Criticize Iranian Regime's Policies

AL-JUMHURIYAH Cites 'Threat'

JN2511120789 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 25, INA—The daily AL-JUMHURIYAH has criticised the language of threat that is still dominating the Iranian thinking.

In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH said it seems that the Iranian rulers did not make use of lessons of the near past where antagonism led them to aggression on Iraq.

"We see now that they are back again threatening and here we see their leaders resume talking of a 20-million-troop Army regardless of the near past where this language proved its bankruptcy..."

AL-JUMHURIYAH continued that Iraq did not want a show of power or to open the wounds again rather, it would like to remind the Iranian leaders that Iraq as they have known it in the battlefield is the one who defeated their aggression programme by achieving a victory that future Arab generations will be proud of throughout history.

The paper added that Iranian rulers must understand that Iraq condemns this language and refuses blackmail and will not give up any of its rights in lands or waters whatever the price is, and Iraq did not give in when Iran was occupying parts of its lands and launching attacks on its cities so how could it accept such scheme when it wound up victorious. [sentence as received]

The daily called on the Iranian rulers to watch their words and behaviours saying that Iraq considers threats as tangible evidence on their bad intentions and their unsincerity [as received] toward peace where all their claims of peace are just misleading statements since there is nothing, in reality, to prove their sincerity.

AL-THAWRAH on 'Devious Policies'

JN2611130789 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 26, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad confirmed that the crisis of confidence in Iran had aggravated at internal and international levels.

In its article of today the daily said that the direct reason of this crisis was not the deteriorating Iranian economy only but the devious policies pursued by the Iranian regime.

The world states were still condemning the Iranian regime for its policies and practices that were incompatible with the international laws and norms.

The daily referred to the Tehran regime's continuity in pursuing the same policy aiming at maintaining the state of no-peace, no-war with Iraq, where it did not adopt a clear practical step confirming Iran's rulers serious desire in peace.

The daily called on the Iranian regime to abandon its policies and stop setting obstacles to block the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 and benefit from Iraq's new initiative on setting up five joint committees for engineering durable peace between both countries in particular and in the whole region in general.

ACC Secretary General Arrives in Baghdad

JN2511190689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Dr Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, he said he would discuss with Iraqi officials preparations for holding the proposed meeting of the ACC Ministerial Council in Baghdad on 16 January.

Ramadan Confers With Nammar

JN2611150089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. During the meeting, Ramadan reviewed matters pertaining to the forthcoming meeting of the ACC Ministerial Council, pointing out that the subjects to be discussed will add new bases of cooperation in order to enhance the march of the ACC.

For his part, Dr Hilmi Nammar explained steps taken to enable the ACC General Secretariat to start an organized program. He also announced the staff structure of the General Secretariat now is complete, and that it will start work to implement the ACC's summit conferences agreements.

In a statement to INA, Dr Hilmi Nammar said the agenda of the ACC Ministerial Council includes agreements in the areas of health, aviation, awqaf, scientific research, local government, trade unions, and citizenship—agreements that define the bases of integration in these activities and complete the previous agreements that were appproved at the Sanaa summit conference.

Defense Minister Returns From Bahrain Visit

JN2811103089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad this morning following an official 4-day visit to Bahrain at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, the commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force.

In a statement to INA, the defense minister said that during his visit to Bahrain, he conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and to the brotherly Bahraini people.

He said his visit was fruitful and successful, and that means to strengthen cooperation between the Iraqi Armed Forces and the Bahraini Defense Force were discussed.

Shamir Meets With Knesset Foreign Affairs Panel

Reviews U.S. Visit

TA2711144889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] According to Prime Minister Shamir, he made it plain to the heads of the U.S. Administration that Israel refrains from talking with the PLO not only because its members are terrorists, but also because they demand a Palestinian state, which would put an end to the State of Israel.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that, addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mr Shamir said that the significance of his U.S. visit lies in his impression that the U.S. Administration and Jews support Israel. He related that Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney told him that the changes in the world do not necessitate a change in strategic relations with Israel. Secretary of State Baker said that he understands the Jewish nation's objection to the reunification of Germany, but that the United States' view of such a move is favorable.

As for the intifadah, he [Shamir] said that our position will not change even if it lasts 10 years.

Answering a question of Knesset Member [MK] Shevah Weiss, the prime minister said that for the cause of peace, he is ready to speak even with the devil. MK Weiss said that this is an important pronouncement, and that we must therefore, for the sake of peace, prepare for talks with the PLO. The prime minister's retort was unequivocal: Not with the PLO.

After the conclusion of the Foreign and Defense Committee meeting, Mr Shamir addressed the issue of poverty, saying that in his opinion, physical hunger does not exist in Israel. There are certainly extreme cases of want, and it is the state's responsibility to ascertain that such cases—even if they are few—cease to exist. The prime minister added that it is only natural for a country like ours to be constantly immersed in political and defense problems, but that we never neglect the social issue. We neither overlook nor allot too few funds to social problems, said Mr Shamir.

Discusses U.S. Relations

TA2711183089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Report by Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that, despite the fact that Knesset members and other people malign our country, U.S. Jews stand by us—and this guarantees that we will not get to the point of a confrontation with the U.S. Administration. Relations between Israel and the United States are friendly, and I wish the same were true with regard to the Knesset, the prime minister noted.

Despite the fact that the world's attention is directed at East Europe, the Middle East still holds a prominent place, and the United States has not yet struck the issue off its agenda.

[Begin Shamir recording] The United States has clear and definite interests in the Middle East, and it has no intentions to forgo them. This is what I heard in my recent visit, and I do not at all think that we should be worried that they are not going to deal with our case. [end recording]

It is only natural that there should be differences of opinion between friends, Shamir said. Should alliances be broken just because of differences of opinion? I believe that at a time of conflicting views countries should enhance their relations, the prime minister said.

The U.S. President told the prime minister: You know we object to the establishment of settlements, and we regard them as an obstacle on the road to peace. The prime minister retorted: This is a disputed issue. We will pursue the efforts to implement our initiative and, according to the phases theory, we will get to the question of the settlements at a later stage in the negotiations.

Emerging from the committee session, the prime minister said: Israel's initiative is not frozen, and we are waiting for the other side to issue its reaction.

[Begin Shamir recording] After all, a peace initiative is not the sort of action that should last only a few days or weeks. We knew beforehand that there would be numerous difficulties and obstacles along the way; we did not entertain any illusions. There are obstacles, and we should overcome them. I do not think that our peace initiative has failed or has frozen, not at all. [end recording]

The intifadah has been going on for 2 years, the prime minister said, but it will not change our position even if it were to last 10 years. We gave the Arabs an alternative, and they should grab it with both their hands, the prime minister concluded.

Foresees 'Massive Immigration'

TA2811111389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] An unprecedented 45,000 Soviet Jews last month asked for invitations that will permit them to seek exit visas for Israel, and if the trend continues, half a million Jews will seek to immigrate to Israel within the next year, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday, sources say.

Shortage of staff at the Israel interest section in Moscow, where the visas are issued, is the main bottleneck holding up this massive immigration, Shamir told the committee, explaining that Moscow permits only three Israeli diplomats to work there and process the invitations and has refused Israeli requests to increase the size of the section.

Sources say Shamir dismissed suggestions from committee members that the government was ill-prepared to absorb all the Soviet Jews wishing to come to Israel. It was true, he admitted, that the government had not anticipated such massive Soviet Jewish interest, but the country had always risen to such challenges in the past and he expected it to do so in this case, too. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 28 November on page 3 carries a report by Amir Neuman which adds: "Simha Dinitz, the chairman of the World Zionist Organization, yesterday said that absorption experts now believe that some 200,000 to 300,000 Soviet Jews will immigrate to Israel within the next three years." Jewish Agency Treasurer Me'ir Shitrit said yesterday that "we are expecting some 30,000 to 40,000 Soviet Jews to arrive in Israel in 1990. More than 50,000 new immigrants are expected to immigrate to Israel next year. The Jewish Agency absorption and immigration budget will therefore be almost doubled and will amount to approximately $150 million."]

Rabin Reviews Eastern Bloc Changes in Speech

TA2811072789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Report by military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] In a gathering for soldiers sponsored by the Tel Aviv Open University last night, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin chose to address the events in the world, mainly in the wake of the developments in East Europe.

We are currently living in an era whose developments are still difficult to assess, Yitzhaq Rabin says. Changes are taking place here, in our region, as well. If we fail to understand the significance of this, we will find ourselves dragged along by events, rather than influencing them.

[Begin Rabin recording] There is no doubt in my mind that the 1990's will be a decade of significant changes, whose beginning we are witnessing today: the collapse of the Soviet communist empire. This is a world that will aspire to greater freedom, a world that will demand rights for peoples, regardless of whether they have been recognized or not. [end recording]

The superpowers' ability to dictate processes will be diminished in the next decade, says Minister Rabin. Social and economic factors will have a greater impact than military capability. The world arms markets will become smaller, and Israel will also have to adapt its defense industries to the changing circumstances.

[Begin Rabin recording] I am pleased to note one thing: The international media are no longer all that busy with us. We are no longer interesting; stone throwing is no longer interesting. What is happening here is of lesser interest. New horizons and new possibilities have opened up for the world. We should take care not to remain on the sidelines. [end recording]

Efforts To Thwart PLO Motions at UN Reported

TA2711160989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by New York correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Text] Israel has been trying to muster the support of UN members, particularly the United States, in order to thwart the PLO's attempt to pass a resolution at the UN General Assembly which would recognize it as "the state of Palestine."

At the same time, the United States has been threatening to cut its financial aid to the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] if it passes a resolution today calling on the organization "to provide the Palestinian people with the necessary assistance for its economic development, in close coordination with the PLO."

Despite the efforts of the Americans, it seems that the FAO—meeting in Rome—will pass the resolution today, with the support of the Arab countries. Apparently, France also will support the resolution.

The draft resolution harshly criticizes Israel for the economic exploitation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and calls on the FAO to henceforth include the occupied territories in its aid programs, in coordination with the PLO.

The United States argues that such a resolution would signify the politicization of an organization which was established to promote agricultural development in developing countries.

Israel hopes the Americans also will use the threat of cutting aid to thwart the PLO's attempt to attain official recognition at the UN General Assembly this week as representing "the state of Palestine." As may be recalled, Labib al-Tarazi, the head of the PLO delegation to the United Nations, told correspondents in New York on Saturday that the Arab countries intend to pass such a resolution this week.

The United States is hundreds of millions of dollars in arrears to the FAO in the wake of the U.S. Congress' decision to freeze aid allocations to the UN. Only recently have some of the funds been unfrozen.

PLO Ready To Make 'Concessions' on Delegation

TA2811082089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev and news agencies]

[Excerpt] The PLO is refusing to forgo its demand to publicly appoint the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel, but U.S. officials have expressed confidence that Egypt will ultimately give a positive response to Secretary of State James Baker's five-point formula.

Sources in Jerusalem said last night that the PLO's insistence on a public role in appointing the delegation is the last remaining obstacle to the organization's acceptance of Baker's plan.

Official Egyptian sources conceded for the first time yesterday that they had asked the PLO to redraft its earlier replies to the U.S.

According to some Israeli sources, the PLO is now willing to make concessions on the participation of outside Palestinians and East Jerusalem residents in the delegation, in exchange for public acknowlegement of its role. Washington is convinced, however, that the Likud will refuse to talk with a delegation which the PLO claims to have appointed. [passage omitted]

Kohl's Statement on Reunification Draws Protest

TA2811061189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] West Germany's Ambassador to Israel Wilhelm Haas warns that if the German people are made to understand that the world will never accept a reunification of the Germanies, many Germans will again return to their extreme nationalism and hatred of others. Haas was speaking at a meeting of the Young Guard of the Labor Party in Jerusalem. He said that by the end of this year, 300,000 East Germans will receive West German citizenship.

The Young Guard handed Haas a letter addressed to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in which the Labor Party members protest his statement in support of German reunification.

'Perceived Deterioration' in Ties With Canada

TA2811101289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Israel has expressed concern to Canada over a perceived deterioration in relations between Ottawa and Jerusalem, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

Foreign Ministry officials told their Canadian counterparts that "there is a perception in Israel of a negative trend in relations between the two countries." At the same time, plans are going forward on Foreign Minister Moshe Arens's official visit to Ottawa early next year.

In a meeting last week with Andrew Robinson, head of the Middle East department in the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs, the Foreign Ministry officials stressed that the two countries must take steps in order to counteract this "perception."

They said that in many spheres, relations between Jerusalem and Ottawa remain close and friendly, but they noted that Canadian positions on the PLO and in the UN Security Council were sources of concern here.

In his discussions here, Robinson repeatedly stressed Canada's position, as stated by Exteranl Affairs Minister Joe Clark, that Israel will "eventually" have to negotiate with the PLO.

Iran Pledges Financial Assistance to HAMAS

TA2611112889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Persons in the territories associated with HAMAS, the Islamic Resistance Movement, have reported that Iran intends to increase its assistance to the movement following the Muslim Brotherhood's success in Jordan. They reported that contacts have been held between Iranian elements and HAMAS representatives in one of the Persian Gulf states, during which the Iranian leaders pledged special budgets to HAMAS if the movement agrees to participate in elections in the territories. The Iranian personalities promised financial and spiritual aid as well as other kinds of assistance to the HAMAS personnel in the territories.

The notables from the territories further reported that in fact HAMAS' sole sources of money are located in London. Arab sources have reported that the meetings between the Iranian figures and the HAMAS people came in reaction to HAMAS' attempts to grow closer to Fatah in a bid to iron out their differences. It should be noted that HAMAS' power in the Gaza Strip has risen in the past few months despite the arrest of its leaders, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who was detained several months ago. According to Arab sources, the movement is recuperating from the sweeping detentions conducted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] among HAMAS activists. Thus, new HAMAS leaders have emerged in Gaza in lieu of the old guard and their attitude toward Israel is far more uncompromising.

It has been learned that HAMAS activists who had been held in Israeli prisons have recently been released after completing their term and that they have resumed hostile activity in the Gaza Strip.

HAMAS activists still regard Shaykh Yasin as HAMAS' inalienable spiritual leader in the territories. Although he is held in an Israeli jail and is cut off from events in the territories, he is still very familiar with daily occurrences and is briefed regularly.

West Bank Schools To Remain Closed Until 1990

TA2411113289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Nov 89 p A2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] A feeling of discontent has spread through the West Bank because the Civil Administration has not allowed studies to be held in schools since November. Despite the fact that schools in the West Bank were closed for most of the past 1 and ½ years, the Civil Administration decided that schools would close for a late summer vacation, after being open for only 3 months. The meaning of this move is that this year, the vacation will last more than half the school year.

Over a month ago, the Civil Administration notified the heads of the education chambers in the territories that 13 November would be the last school day this year. It also slated dates for exams to be held during the vacation and set 10 January 1990 as the 1st day of the next school year. Students and teachers were forbidden to hold any form of studies between these two dates.

Following the decision on a forced vacation, many schools decided to provide supplementary studies and special courses, despite the formal closure. Studies were offered by the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] schools in the West Bank in particular. These, being private schools, did not regard themselves bound to follow the instructions of the staff education officer of the Civil Administration. After UNRWA was told to close its schools, Robert Hopkins, the UNRWA coordinator of activities in the territories, sent a letter to the Civil Administration saying that until he is presented with a military decree claiming that the resumption of studies constitutes a security threat, the schools under UNRWA's responsibility will remain open and studies will be held as usual.

In response, Hopkins received an unequivocal clarification from the coordinator of government activities in the territories, claiming that the staff education officer of the Civil Administration has full authority to stipulate the closing and opening dates of the school year in the West Bank. To give the matter legal backing, the commander of the Central Command issued a special decree stating that as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in the area, "and in view of the current special circumstances prevailing in this area, which have caused disruptions in the education system, and in the belief that it is in the best interests of the local population, and to ensure order in the area, the studies that resumed in all the schools in December 1988 and were held until November 1989 will be considered a school year for all intents and purposes."

The meaning of this decree is that the regular annual vacation will be observed this year as well, although studies were held for only 3 months. The decree also stipulates that the staff education officer of the Civil Administration has the authority to issue special orders concerning the dates of final exams, alternative conditions under which report cards would replace exams, and the types of schools to which these orders apply. [passage omitted]

West Bank school principals believe that in sending the students on a forced vacation, the Civil Administration intends to circumvent the eventful period expected next month. In December the residents of the territories will mark several nationalist dates, including the 2d anniversary of the outbreak of the intifadah. According to the principals, the Civil Administration believes that holding regular studies during this month might help the students organize disruptions of the public order.

The Civil Administration has explained that, in any event, the ending of the current school year was meant to help the students. "In holding exams on an irregular basis and not declaring an end to the school year, the students would not have been able to be promoted to the next grade, receive final degrees, and register at other schools," Civil Administration officials explained.

Issuing of Magnetic Cards on West Bank Deferred

TA2611120589 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Nov 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The defense minister and the chief of staff, in coordination with the commander of the Central Command, have decided to defer, for the moment, the operation of replacing the identity cards for the residents of the West Bank along the lines of the campaign that had been conducted in the Gaza Strip.

The defense establishment has made a decision in principle to issue plastic, magnetic cards permitting entry into Israel for work, but the distribution of these cards has been postponed until a later date.

Security sources have reported that the postponement was decided upon in view of its great political sensitivity and so as not to affect the talks currently under way with the United States.

Data on Abuses by IDF Soldiers Released

TA2711110889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Nov 89 p 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Four IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, including one officer, were convicted of manslaughter or homicide through negligence in the course of the IDF's efforts to put down the intifada from its beginning through October and sentenced to prison terms ranging from three months to two years. Eight others, including five officers, were charged and acquitted, according to figures released by Betzelem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

According to Betzelem, the security forces killed 569 Palestinians in that period.

Of 102 instances in which children were killed by the security forces, only one resulted in the jailing of a soldier, who was sentenced to two months in prison.

The severest punishments have been meted out for theft, pillage and vandalism. Of 24 soldiers charged, 21 were jailed for periods ranging from 40 days to three years and nine months. Three soldiers convicted of pillage and theft in the Gaza Strip were jailed for 45, 34 and 22 months respectively.

Of the 35 soldiers and officers charged with beating, wounding, assault or brutality, 19 received sentences of from one to nine months in prison.

No officer above the rank of rav-seren (major) has been court-martialled for abuses in the administered territories. In five incidents involving senior officers, two alufei-mishne (colonels) have been reprimanded, and two sganei-aluf (lt.-cols.) were relieved of their commands.

All told, 56 soldiers and 12 officers charged with abuses have been court-martialled and either sentenced or cleared since the start of the intifada. Two officers and 44 soldiers have been sentenced to prison.

While half the officers court-martialled (6) were cleared of wrongdoing, only five per cent of the soldiers (three) were cleared.

In addition, 500-600 soldiers and officers have been summoned to disciplinary hearings, according to the IDF judge-advocate general. Sentences reported in the press ranged from a reprimand to 35 days in jail.

Group Claims IDF Violating Geneva Convention

TA2811110789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] The British Defence Regulations used by Israel in the West Bank and Gaza Strip violate the Fourth Geneva Convention and international law, according to a study released yesterday by the Ramallah-based human rights group, al-Haq.

The study, entitled "Perpetual Emergency: A Legal Analysis of Israel's Use of the British Defence (Emergency) Regulations, 1945, in the Occupied Territories," was written by Martha Roadstrum Moffett, an American lawyer living in Jerusalem. It traces the history of the Defence Regulations, and reviews and dismisses Israeli arguments justifying their use.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday rejected the study's conclusions.

The al-Haq paper argues that the Defence Regulations, which allow for such measures as house demolition, deportation and detention without trial, violate stipulations in the Geneva Convention and the 1907 Hague Regulations. [passage omitted]

In another chapter, the study asserts that "numerous provisions of the British Defence Regulations infringe upon the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized under international law" including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which bars arbitrary arrest, exile or seizure of property.

Even in times of emergency, violations of human rights can only be justified if they are taken as a temporary and last resort, in proportion to danger, and only in the most extreme circumstances, the study says. "It seems doubtful that any of the measures taken by the Israelis under the authority of the British Defence Regulations could withstand scrutiny under this standard." [passage omitted]

Responding to the report, military sources said that the army employs the Defence Regulations in the territories in accordance with requirements of the Hague Convention, which stipulate that the occupying power must leave existing legislation in force in the occupied territory. The Defence Regulations enacted by the British remained in force under Jordanian and Egyptian rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the spokesman.

Furthermore, the validity of the Defence Regulations has been repeatedly confirmed in rulings by the High Court of Justice, which found that they do not contradict international law, the source said.

'Marked Decline' in Incidents in Gaza Noted

TA2611100489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Senior military sources reported last week, in a meeting held in the General Staff Command, that a marked decline has been registered in the number of incidents and casualties in the Gaza Strip.

According to military sources, not even one person was reported killed in the Gaza Strip in the past 4 weeks, and the number of injuries has likewise dropped substantially. They also reported success in capturing masked people in the Strip. Palestinian sources have also pointed to a substantial decline in the number of casualties in the Strip and that not even a single person was killed there in weeks.

A senior Palestinian personality explained this as having three causes: The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols in refugee camps consist of pairs or groups of three, and they refrain from provoking the locals; current IDF activity, such as shooting, is far more regulated and in fact is aimed more against masked individuals; and the local residents' motivation to engage in clashes with the IDF has decreased.

An IDF spokesman in the Southern Command has reported that a curfew was imposed on the al-Shati' refugee camp for operational reasons, and that relative quiet prevailed in the Strip on Friday and Saturday.

Officers Report Thousands of Weapons in Gaza

TA2611105489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Reports in the weekly BAMAHANE, citing senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the Gaza Strip, indicate that the residents of the Gaza Strip are currently in possession of approximately 10,000 pistols, machineguns, and grenades.

It was also reported that the IDF is aware of the fact that the territories are swamped with firearms. They attribute the fact that the locals have refrained from using them to their bitter experience in the seventies.

According to Colonel S., deputy commander of the Gaza Strip, the IDF is capable of handling hostile terrorist activity far better than it can cope with stone throwers. A shift by the residents to the use of firearms will entail a firm and uncompromising response.

Col S. disclosed: "Firearms and/or cold weapons can be found in nearly every household in the Gaza Strip. These are concealed in caches and used for self-defense, sometimes without any connection to hostile elements. These can be a dagger, but very often we find firearms."

In the past 4 weeks, 12 Egyptian-made fragmentation grenades, 2 Carl Gustaf submachine guns, and a pistol have been found.

Col S. added that the Carl Gustaf is the most common weapon, but that pistols are likewise popular because they are small and can easily be concealed.

In reaction to the report, military sources in the Gaza Strip have said that the locals obtain these large quantities of weapons in two ways: either when criminal elements steal the weapons from soldiers and then sell them to the locals, or when soldiers serving in the territories lose them. Sometimes, however, the weapons are snatched from soldiers. [passage omitted]

Sources See End to 'Euphoria' of Uprising

TA2711072589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] In anticipation of 9 December, the 2d anniversary of the intifadah, the inhabitants of the territories will try to carry out armed attacks, strikes, and demonstrations to get the uprising back in the headlines. This is the assessment of military sources. They added that since August, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has captured approximately 2,000 wanted people, including more than 100 described as the leading and central core of the intifadah. The military sources also said that 40 wanted people are still on the loose, although special efforts are being made to apprehend them.

The military sources said that the phenomenon of setting ambushes from where cinder blocks are dropped has almost completely disappeared from the Nabulus casbah, thanks to the adoption of special preventive operational methods. The sources also believe that the longer the intifadah continues, the more pragmatism will take the place of the euphoria that prevailed at first. They believe that the IDF is perceived as a deterrent and that the general public does not participate in the intifadah, despite efforts to get it involved in the uprising.

In the present situation, they noted, 90 percent of the incidents involve stone throwings carried out by young children. The hard core is made up of masked youths. Their numbers, however, have been reduced thanks to the new methods governing the detention of suspects.

Because the security forces currently handle the intifadah on a case-by-case basis, they claim that this is no longer an uprising, adding that they are aware of the presence of ammunition, weapons, and gangs in the area. The intifadah is constantly assuming different forms, they explained. Some 60 percent of the attacks are now aimed at local residents, with the remaining 40 percent aimed at the security forces. Last year the situation was exactly the reverse.

The security forces have completed the detentions related to the elimination of the Red Eagle gang in Nabulus and of the Tulkarm area squad that kidnapped Sha'ul Mash'anya. Over the past 2 weeks, eight people involved in the kidnapping and other hostile activities in the Tulkarm and Qalqilyah areas have been arraigned. The detentions have made it possible to crack many other cases. In their interrogation, the terrorists pointed to 18 bombs ready to be activated. This also helped crack six cases of forest fires and revealed arms caches.

The sources also reported a severe shortage of policemen. Some 200 policemen are required urgently.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 27 November carries a similar report by Alan Ben-'Ami, who notes that "according to one official, some 60,000 Palestinians come to work regularly in Israel—more than before the intifadah—while the Civil Administration has maintained its authority despite efforts by the Palestinians to find alternative systems of their own." However, "sources familiar with the population in the territories say that while the army is gaining the upper hand in reducing the level of violence, new political and social trends are being established among the Palestinian population which are no less dangerous for Israel and which are being ignored by the authorities.

[This process is said to be quietly creating a wide-ranging leadership and norms of behavior throughout the framework of Palestinian society and, it is said, it is outside the scope of IDF activities and responsibilities. Another long-term danger for the PLO, no less than Israel, is the spreading influence of the fundamentalist Muslim ideology and of the HAMAS, the Islamic Resistance Movement. For the moment, says one source, HAMAS is generally accepting the PLO's leadership of the intifadah, but when it feels the time is right, it will bring its legions onto the street with a force that will shock everyone."]

Curfews, Strikes, Violence in Territories

IDF Raids Reported

TA2011114889

[Editorial Report] Two newspapers on 20 November report on various incidents in the territories on 19 November.

In a report on page 8 by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela', Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English says that "a leaflet distributed in Nabulus and signed by the 'Abu-Jihad Brigades' has accused leading PLO supporters in the territories and senior officials of the organization of embezzling 'millions of dollars' earmarked for the intifada. The handbill is the latest of several distributed in the territories in recent months, all dismissed by Palestinian spokesmen as General Security Services (Shin Bet) forgeries. The latest warned against forged handbills, but was itself labelled a fake by Palestinians in Nabulus." Among the West Bank figures are Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association, who is labeled "the darling of the Israelis," Ibrahim Kar'in, who directed the Palestine Press Service, and 'Izz al-Din al-'Uryan, head of the Red Crescent Society in the West Bank. PLO officials include spokesman Bassam Abu-Sharif, "who is accused of using 'steadfastness' funds to put his children through school in London," and Ibrahim al-Sus, the organization's representative in France.

The report adds that 45-year-old Nawaf Mardawi was shot by masked men and seriously wounded last night in the village of Hablah, near Qalqilyah. He was wounded in the chest and arm and was taken to the Rashidiyah Hospital in Nabulus. "Palestinian sources in Qalqilyah said the man was a known 'collaborator.'" Troops arrived in the village after the incident and conducted searches.

According to THE POST, "Army raids were reported in several villages, where soldiers arrested wanted youths and ordered residents to paint over nationalist graffiti and remove Palestinian flags. The raids are apparently part of a 'clean-up' campaign in the aftermath of celebrations marking last week's anniversary of the PLO's declaration of an independent state."

Also, "Palestinians reported two persons wounded by rubber bullets in clashes at the Tulkarm refugee camp yesterday and Saturday night. In Nabulus, 10 boys, all 15 years old, were sentenced to six months in jail and 350 Israeli shekels fines for stone-throwing." Meanwhile, the Gaza Strip was "relatively calm, with Palestinians reporting only scattered clashes between troops and local residents, during which two Palestinians were shot and lightly wounded."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 20 November reports that "this morning, the army lifted the curfews on the al-Jalazun and Qalandiyah refugee camps near Ramallah," making today "the 1st day in a long time that no part of Judaea and Samaria is under curfew."

In a pool report on page 5, Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 20 November adds that "the security forces yesterday clamped a curfew on 'Illar in the Tulkarm District. They collected taxes from the villagers and ordered them to remove PLO flags and hostile graffiti. Fifteen villagers were taken into custody." The report goes on to say that "40-year-old Ibrahim Ahmad from the al-Mughazi refugee camp was beaten up by locals who suspected him of collaborating with Israel. The man was taken to the al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza in what was described as moderate condition."

Strike Observed in Nabulus

TA2111105889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Nov 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Mikhal Sela', and David Horovitz]

[Excerpts] Nabulus—A petrol bomb was hurled here yesterday at an army truck loaded with fuel drums, but exploded on the street and caused only minor damage.

The bomb was lobbed at the truck on Faysal Street in the city centre, apparently from a rooftop. It hit the truck's canvas roof, but fell to the ground.

Soldiers responded with bursts of automatic fire, and a 13-year-old girl was later reported to have been wounded in the hand. Soldiers closed off the area and searched surrounding buildings, as a security man questioned passers-by. A 19-year-old was hospitalized with injuries from a beating apparently sustained when soldiers chased suspects, Palestinians said.

Shops were shuttered in the city during a strike mourning the death of Iman al-Ruza, the head of the "Red Eagle" gang killed when soldiers raided the group's hideout a week and a half ago and caught some of its members. The strike was also in mourning for a youth killed in clashes in Nabulus which followed Al-Ruza's death, and for a local woman who died of gunshot wounds last week.

Residents reported that youths speaking on behalf of the "Red Eagle" announced the strike Sunday night through megaphones.

Al-Ruza has been mourned as a hero in Nabulus, though the group he led is believed to have killed nine local residents accused of cooperating with the Israeli authorities or of immoral behaviour. Residents have been paying condolence calls at the Al-Ruza family home in the casbah, and a group of girls staged a memorial march in the area yesterday.

Nabulus residents reported that members of the "Black Panther" gang, still at large, were seen moving through the alleys of the casbah with a rifle at the ready and pistols in their hands. The group has reportedly gone on alert since the capture of the "Red Eagle" gang earlier this month.

At Habah, near Qalqilyah, eight masked youths came on Sunday night to the home of As'ad Marzuq, 50, an alleged "collaborator." Marzuq fled to an adjacent IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lookout post, firing a pistol at his assailants, Palestinians said. The youths hit Marzuq's 26-year-old son, 'Adnan, in the head with an axe, seriously wounding him. He was evacuated to a hospital in Israel. [passage omitted]

Palestinians reported two persons wounded in Janin. They also reported army raids on several villages, where residents were ordered to remove Palestinian flags and paint over nationalist graffiti.

[Ya'ir Nehoray, Mikhal Qedem, and Shim'on Elqabetz, writing on page 6 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 21 November note that these places are Nahallin, al-Judayyidah, and Huwwarah, and add that "seven youths were rounded up for questioning in the Qaddura refugee camp."]

The Gaza Strip was relatively calm, but a masked Palestinian was shot and wounded by IDF troops in Rafah where he was said to have been part of a group writing slogans on a wall. [passage omitted]

David Horovitz adds:

Three Arab teenagers have confessed to throwing petrol bombs and stones in recent weeks at Border Police patrols in East Jerusalem's Abu-Tor neighbourhood, a police spokesman said yesterday.

The 13 and 14-year-olds, who have been in detention since last week, have admitted responsibility for at least five petrol bombings, the spokesman added.

Curfews Imposed in Gaza Strip

TA2211153889

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 22 November, in a page 12 report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela', reports: "Masked youths yesterday stabbed and wounded a local man accused of informing on the Red Eagle gang, whose leader was killed in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] raid on the group's hideout earlier this month." The report further states that "at 'Anin, near Janin, two youths wanted by the security forces were shot and wounded by troops, military sources said. Relatives of the youths said shots were fired by men in civilian clothes believed to be settlers." Meanwhile, "a curfew was clamped on al-Shaykh 'Ajlin village and on Gaza's Sabra and Zaytun neighborhoods, according to official military sources. The security forces launched an extensive arrest campaign, according to Palestinian sources. In scattered clashes with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip yesterday, soldiers shot and wounded nine Palestinians."

THE JERUSALEM POST, in a report by David Horovitz on page 12, adds: "A petrol bomb was thrown at a car parked outside the Mount Ziyyon Hotel on Hebron Road near Jerusalem's Old City last night. The bomb ignited and seriously damaged the car, a police spokesman said."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 22 November, in a page A3 report by Hanan Schlein, 'Ezra Yanuv, Yosi Levi, and ITIM, states: "East Jerusalem sources have said that a 21-year-old youth from the village of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta near Ramallah, was hospitalized with critical injuries. It was further reported that a resident of Janin was shot and wounded by four bullets. He was hospitalized. According to local residents, IDF troops yesterday conducted initiated operations in the area of Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Qalqilyah, arresting 10 residents in the village of Bayt Fajjar."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 22 November, in a pool report on page 2, states that "a breakthrough in the tax revolt of Bayt Sahur residents was noted after some 30 locals, whose property had been impounded during the tax-collecting operation, paid their dues to the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria and received back their impounded property."

King Husayn's Parliament Inauguration Speech

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[Address by King Husayn on the inauguration of the first ordinary session of the 11th Parliament in Amman on 27 November—live]

[Text] Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, the venerated, and the sagacious, I hereby declare open the first ordinary session of the 11th Parliament. I thank God for granting us success in our long march to reinforce parliamentary life, which has always been a landmark of government in our country. I salute each one of you and express my pride and hope in your ability to live up to the trust vested in you and to shoulder the responsibility that rests on you. You have a moral, historic, and political responsibility in this critical phase of our life. I congratulate you on the status which you have earned, especially the honorable representatives who have earned the trust of the electorate. Each one of them now represents all of Jordan and the whole Jordanian people in their various regions and constituencies. He will not limit his efforts to serving those who voted for him alone, nor will he favor his town or constituency. The constituency of each representative is all of Jordan—its borders, its Arab identity, its Islamic attachments, and its international interests. His electorate includes all Jordanians in all parts of this country.

There is no doubt that the current House of Representatives represents a new phase of our life in view of the suspension of parliamentary life for more than 20 years as a result of Israel's occupation of the West Bank. You know very well how we strived to provide the greatest possible level of consultation and participation during that period, which I explained in my address to the people on the eve of the election campaign. When we made our decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank on 31 July 1988 as a result of many developments and changes, of which you are all aware because we lived through them together, the barrier that prevented general parliamentary elections was removed. Consequently, the election law was amended to suit the new situation. We adopted the method followed by many countries that guarantees the right of parliamentary representation to all segments of society, pursuant to the principle of achieving national unity through plurality. Then the elections took place, which brought about this House. The elections were held in such an atmosphere of openness and freedom that they have become exemplary. They gave the voter total freedom to elect his deputies so that he can bear the full responsibility of his choice.

Our country, which has always faced dangers and emerged victorious and faced great challenges only to overcome them, has now provided further evidence to what free will can achieve and what self-confidence can realize. We made our decision to resume the democratic process. The blessed and praiseworthy efforts of the government fulfilled this decision by providing the appropriate climate for the general elections, aided by the awareness of our people of the importance of this historic event. These factors combined have added a new chapter to the epic of our confidence in ourselves and our future in this precious part of our great Arab homeland.

Our enemies and the covetous speculated that our country was on the verge of entering a dark tunnel which would lead to Jordan's disintegration and collapse. This, they hoped, would pave the way to substantiating the "Jordan Is The Solution" slogan, instead of admitting that the only solution to the Palestinian problem lies in recognizing Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil. Our decision to resume the democratic process came as an active expression of our distinguished ability to face challenges and our determination to ward off all dangers. Before the enemies and the covetous could recover from their puzzlement, they faced a greater shock as they followed the procedures, the conditions, and the atmosphere which the government succeeded in providing to hold the elections in impartiality and integrity.

We have made our promise and fulfilled our promise. The government has borne its noble responsibility and proved itself to be up to the task. The electorate did what it could according to the ability and judgment of each. It remains for us to hope that the honorable deputies will fulfill what we expect of them and what the common good dictates by dealing with our principal causes in an objective spirit and from a realistic and balanced outlook.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives: With God's grace, with his gifts of stability and security, and with the loyalty, vitality, and initiative of our people, our country was able to realize many gains and achievements. These require constant care and vigilance to protect and develop them. This can only be done by defending our land and our existence against any lurking external aggression, and, internally, by providing peace and security to our citizens, and by guaranteeing the cohesion and safety of our domestic front. Toward this end, my government has persevered in paying special attention to the Jordanian Armed Forces, giving them the proper support, care, and training, and, as much as possible, providing them with the necessary advanced weapons and equipment to fulfill their sacred duty on the longest confrontation line, while defending our country and our Arab nation against the most vicious invasion that our homeland has ever faced. Who are more worthy of this honor than our Armed Forces, which the founder of the Kingdom named the Arab Army, so that its name will denote its noble pan-Arab message, which is not limited to only one country. [applause]

Furthermore, the government has spared no effort in supporting the various security agencies, so they can fulfill their great responsibilities of providing stability, ensuring the supremacy of law and order, and assuring the citizens of their safety and the protection of their lives and property. We are aware that we cannot proceed with our development and the progress of our country unless we guarantee internal and external national security.

My government has never found a contradiction between protecting national security, and paying the utmost attention to the matter of public liberties. This is ingrained in its faith in the principles of human rights, and in its conviction that an atmosphere of freedom enhances the potential for excellence in individuals as well as the ability to work and be productive in the community. Human rights, public liberties, and the protection of national security have united in an integrated entity to build a cohesive and impregnable homeland, and to shape the personality of the free and responsible citizen. The door has been opened to the freedom of expression and interpretation to prove publicly, and without fear or hesitation, their sound presence in our society, press, media, and in private and public meetings. This approach has enhanced my government's policy of always maintaining contact and dialogue with civic and popular bodies. This has led to a spirit of trust and confidence between the citizen and the official, and widened the horizon of hope in the bright future of our country. All this preceded and laid the groundwork for the parliamentary elections. It then persisted throughout the elections, causing them to reinforce this approach and attest to its validity.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives: Our responsibility toward Jerusalem, the al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Palestinian cause is deep-rooted. Its continuity cannot be ended by a political decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. This responsibility stems from the core of the Arab-Islamic message which the Hashemites have carried throughout their long history [applause]. We must continue to bear this message, fulfill our obligation, and perform our sacred duty.

Consequently, my government has continued to spend on shari'a courts in the occupied West Bank, the awqaf of Jerusalem, the al- Aqsa and al-Ibrahimi Mosques, and their schools and colleges. My government has also fulfilled its pledge to support the families of the martyrs of the intifadah, in addition to the reponsibility that it bears through the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering steadfastness. My government also continues the restoration of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, and other shrines in this holy place.

My government has always been careful to preserve the independence and sanctity of the judiciary, and it has offered the necessary facilities to open the Jordanian Judicial Institute so that it can contribute to improving the performance of this apparatus and raise its staff's level of competence. The government will present to your honorable assembly, at the nearest possible opportunity, a complete outline that reinforces the right of the citizen to live under the supremacy of the law, which will consequently elevate the status of the judiciary. The government will reconsider some legislation which has become a handicap to the progress of society. My government will also concentrate its efforts on giving the various courts all the support that they need to perform their duties completely, competently, and speedily, to gradually reduce the need to resort to exceptional and special courts.

My government's attention to education, culture, youth, and health has always been obvious. It persevered with the educational development plan which made the duration of basic, compulsory and free education 10 years. At the end of the 10th year the student should have an adequate level of knowledge and skill that will enable him to face life after receiving the necessary training in the specialized institutes, or which will help him to continue his secondary education if he meets its requirements. The length of the secondary stage has become 2 years, and it has been organized and planned in a way that gives an equal outlook to both academic education and professional training. The government also opened the door to professional training to offer the opportunity of higher education in the corresponding field of specialization.

My government has worked continuously to raise the standards of institutes and community colleges, making them capable of meeting the needs of development plans and those of society for technical staff. The opportunities for university education in Jordan have also expanded. The government has approved the establishment of a private university and three private university colleges, some of which are expected to open at the beginning of the next academic year.

My government also has paid special attention to youth. Besides sports, the government has concentrated on the cultural and intellectual development of youth, to educate and guide them in life.

In the field of culture, the government has supported creativity in thought and art, and worked for their support and encouragement in the various fields of cultural endeavor. Festivals and special cultural events were organized, and the state's distinction awards were conferred on a number of writers, artists, and researchers. A special law has been drafted to protect copyrights, which soon will be presented to your honorable assembly.

In health care, the year 1989 witnessed a marked rise in the services of the Ministry of Health and a qualitative improvement in the level of its services. This has been underlined through emphasis on preventive medicine in all its branches since the foundation of the National Medical Institution.

The government is now in the process of completing its program of road construction, with special emphasis on the rural and village networks, to facilitate access to centers of industry, agriculture, tourism, and public transportation. The Jordanian National Construction Act has been passed to keep pace with modern developments in construction, and to apply the specifications and measures that guarantee public safety and hygiene, industrial security, and the cleanliness of the environment.

In transportation and communications, the government has organized land travel for passengers and cargo through bilateral and multilateral agreements with a number of Arab sister states. It has also implemented a number of organizational, administrative regulations that facilitated the passage of cargo through the port of Aqaba.

In agriculture, my government has reviewed agricultural policy to meet the objectives of providing the citizen with his basic nutritional needs and opening the door for the exportation of our agricultural products in order to raise Jordan's foreign exchange income and improve our balance of payments. As a result, the volume of agricultural exports rose this year by 38 percent in comparison with the same period last year. My government will continue its work to reduce our dependence on imported agricultural products and expand agricultural output of crops that can be grown locally to substitute for imported commodities. The government will also encourage the expansion of cultivating crops in which Jordan has a relative advantage, whether for local consumption or export.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives: At the beginning of this year, we began the commercial exploitation of the natural gas field in al-Rishah by using its output to feed electric generators that will boost the national output. God be praised, last October we also discovered a large new well in the same area, which raises our hopes to find large gas reserves in the eastern part of the Kingdom. The government began making immediate arrangements to exploit this new find and develop it by doubling our output of gas-generated electricity and studying the commercial feasibility of building a gas pipeline from al-Rishah to Amman.

At the same time, we continue to explore for oil through national efforts and through the international companies currently working in the Kingdom.

After extending the national electricity grid to all parts of the Kingdom and making it available to more than 97 percent of the population, we took active and far-reaching steps in cooperation with our brothers in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] to link the electricity grids of Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq.

In water and irrigation, my government continues to pay special attention to a water policy that guarantees the wise exploitation of our water resources on the one hand, and the diligent search for new resources on the other. It gives us pleasure to point out that the water grids now reach 97 percent of our population, while people who live in remote areas are provided with water by wells which are powered by solar or wind energy.

In addition, final plans have been drawn for building a number of dams in various parts of the Kingdom. Regarding the al-Wahdah Dam, work has been completed on the diversion canal, and the initial blueprints and feasibility studies for the projects have been completed. The government is now coordinating with the brotherly Syrian Arab Republic to follow up on the research to implement this vital project, which has now reached the financing stage.

In industry and trade, my government has provided support for the main industrial companies and has taken several steps that led to the stability and development of exporting industries. Particularly notable among these are the phosphate, fertilizers, and potash companies, which have gained an international reputation and become a main source of foreign currency for the country. By the end of 1989, the foreign currency income earned by these three companies will will have reached $600 million.

In addition, my government has provided all possible facilities for creating a climate that attracts investment in industry. This led to the registration of more than 1,300 companies this year, in addition to the growth in the number of regional offices of international companies that chose the Kingdom as their base. These companies and industrial and trade establishments have contributed to the employment of a large number of citizens.

My government has finished drafting a new law on commercial agents and middlemen which regulates the activity of this important sector, defines the responsibility, and protects the citizen. This draft law will be presented to your distinguished House in its current session for your deliberation and approval. My government also will work to enact an industrial law and amend laws on trademarks, patents, inventions, and trade names, making these laws compatible with the requirements of this age. It will also work to support and develop the institutions dealing with specifications and measurements to protect the health and economy of the consumer, and to ensure the quality of national products.

In the field of supplies, my government has persevered in providing the various food products, and succeeded in controlling the prices of many basic foods despite the various fluctuations to which our national economy was exposed this year.

The government agencies successfully curbed profiteering during the crisis and prevented tampering with the quality of products. The government will continue to do its best to assure every family of its ability to face the coming economic phase. The government will also work to secure the participation of the various sectors of society in shaping the decisions that affect them in this field. To achieve this, the government will encourage the establishment of societies for the protection of the consumer and give them legal status to enable every citizen to participate in protecting his family and society.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives: In the past three decades, Jordan has witnessed comprehensive development in all fields. Life here was affected by the rise in income and greater opportunities achieved by the region as a whole. It implemented successive development plans that produced many positive aspects and opened new horizons, as well as some negative effects which will have to be contained and eradicated.

This development has helped create many industries, an advanced infrastructure, and spread many services. At the same time, it created some economic dislocations and brought about additional social burdens.

During the past months, when we were tested with a crisis, my government overcame it, with God's help, in the best way possible. Consequently, the government took steps to achieve economic and social balance by controlling and reducing the financial deficit from 24 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP] to about 20 percent in 1989. We hope that the deficit will drop further to 16.5 percent of the GDP in 1990. The government also will work diligently to reduce the current account deficit in the balance of payments from 6 percent of the GDP in 1989 to a balanced account in 1993.

One of the early fruits of this policy was the improvement in the foreign trade situation in the first 9 months of this year. National exports rose and imports dropped. Exports covered nearly 50 percent of imports, compared with a ratio of 37 percent in the past year. In addition, tourism saw a marked improvement in the second half of this year.

The government has dealt with the foreign debt in a responsible way, and with competence, given the situation and available opportunities and potential. It published accurate figures on this debt, and negotiated with creditor nations and banks to come out with reasonable terms for rescheduling the debt.

My government was able to reschedule a large part of the payments and interest due in 1989 and 1990 within a general outlook for dealing with the overall debt. This led to a reduction of the burden of foreign debt and allowed Jordan to raise the necessary funds to cover its needs of basic food products and services. This way we have ended a basic and arduous phase of dealing with our economic situation.

My government will continue to do its best to build the appropriate foundations for dealing with foreign debt, and to prevent it from reaching levels which our economy cannot service. And, to complete the rectification of our financial and monetary situation, my government supported the Central Bank, emphasizing the importance of protecting its freedom of decisionmaking and operation within the framework of the law. Consequently, the Central Bank proceeded to adopt a number of policies that aim to overcome the crisis of the dinar's exchange rate, which was one of the greatest challenges that our country faced in the past few months. God be praised, these policies succeeded in stopping the landslide of the exchange rate and moved on to raise the standing of the dinar and support it against other currencies.

With the grace of God, our attempts to rebuild a large part of the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves were successful. We should express our gratitude and appreciation to our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the Emirate of Dubayy for their noble, praiseworthy efforts to support Jordan during this crisis. The assistance contributed enormously to rectifying the situation and containing the damage.

My government will continue to take all steps necessary to rebuild and expand the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves by controlling their use in importing goods and services, encouraging and facilitating exports, and attracting remittances from expatriates.

The appropriate steps have been taken to start reorganizing and improving the banking sector, in view of its importance in preserving financial stability in the Kingdom. The Central Bank will continue to develop the means of oversight and supervision to guarantee the health of banking activities and the fulfillment of their role.

In social security, my government has implemented a number of measures to fight unemployment and erase pockets of poverty in society. Employment offices were opened to help job seekers and find the right opportunities for them, and to direct them to appropriate training courses when needed. One of the most important measures to combat poverty and unemployment is the establishment of an institutional framework that will encourage those who are seeking work to start productive projects. The government decided to start a fund for development and employment, which will advise and counsel job seekers and provide them with appropriate funding on easy terms to start productive projects and small businesses. The Ministry of Social Development will continue to give direct assistance to citizens who become incapable of work, either because of advanced age, disability, illness, or overwhelming social conditions. We must remember the importance of the citizen's awareness of the formula linking income with population, and its close relevance to the matter of poverty and unemployment.

My government has paid special attention to one of the causes that are closest to the collective conscience— a cause that highlights the awareness of society and its ability to bear the burdens of welfare and social cohesion. The law for the care of the handicapped was passed to protect this sector of our citizens and to help them find work opportunities, to open the doors before them to be productive and make a contribution, and to provide them with health care.

My government also has paid attention to public administration, through its conviction that all projects and development plans in the various fields will not be successful unless they are matched by a major development in the administrative sector. The government has prepared a comprehensive project for administrative development which will be implemented over the next 3 years, God willing. The government has laid good groundwork for the success of this project administratively and in view of the foresight of those who worked on it. This program is expected to concentrate on streamlining the bureaucratic procedures from which the citizens suffer. It will study the restructuring of government agencies to make them more efficient and capable of coping with the fast-changing requirements of a modern society. The program also will search for the best ways to prepare and train the civil servant to make him more diligent, able, productive, and eager to serve the citizen and protect public funds.

The government has shown that it will not tolerate any kind of financial corruption or administrative delinquency. It is serious in studying ways to combat economic crimes. A special committee has been formed to study the various aspects of economic criminality to be able to present adequate legislation for coping with this serious disease that must be removed from our society.

The government will work to present special legislation to establish an authority for administrative oversight and auditing, which will function next to, and complement the financial auditing authorities. The government will develop this branch and expand its authority to complete the measure for financial and administrative supervision.

In environmental affairs, my government has begun to deal attentively and carefully with relevant cases, in view of the close relationship among environmental health, human health, and the future. We are still at the beginning. My government will establish an independent body to supervise environmental affairs to ensure correct planning and rapid execution of measures that are required for the protection of the environment. Adequate legislation and special programs will be prepared to expand the framework for the protection of the environment and the awareness of its importance, so that citizens can all participate in caring for our national environment and the planet that we share with other nations.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives: The government has continued to draft and implement foreign policy out of the firm principles that govern our action within our national environment and the greater world, securing and protecting our national interests, while at the same time serving our Arab causes.

Concerning the Palestinian cause, a new phase has begun as a result of the blessed, popular intifadah, which has enabled the Palestinian people to assert themselves and their just cause in a manner that has earned them international attention unprecedented in the past 4 decades.

Our decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank was made to give political backing to the intifadah, and to return the cause to its roots—that is, the cause of a people under colonial rule who seek to achieve their national independence on the land of their fathers and forefathers.

This strategic decision, which we made in response to the request of the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people, and in keeping with the general Arab desire to highlight the Palestinian identity, ended successive attempts to avoid dealing with the root cause of the conflict. It opened new horizons for an honorable peace settlement. It was followed by the session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers which took Palestinian political action to an advanced stage expressed by brave political decisions. These decisions included the proclamtion of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil. The Palestinian position was then explained and clarified by our brother president Yasir 'Arafat before the UN General Assembly, which led to important political gains internationally.

Our decision did not change the nature of our commitment to support and stand by Palestinian national rights. Jordan has continued to stand by its twin brother, the Palestinian Arab people, in his just struggle. We have never hesitated for a moment in supporting the decisions and actions of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to secure its full participation in forging peace for the attainment of these rights. We intensified our international contacts to secure understanding and support for the new Palestinian position by creating an international consensus to convene an international peace conference. This consensus was created according to well-known principles and against the background of a united Arab position that crystallized in the summit of reconcilation and accord held in Amman in 1987. This united Arab position also was reaffirmed at the Casablanca summit in 1989.

It has become clear to the whole world that the Palestinian leadership has fulfilled with true commitment what was required of it to facilitate progress in the peace process. It also has become clear that Israel is the side that continues to thwart progress. We are confident that the brave and responsible Palestinian stand, supported by a firm and cohesive Arab stand, will continue to expose the Israeli stand in a manner that will align the whole international community against the Israeli position.

The summit of reconciliation and accord was a landmark of hope in joint Arab action. It also produced a joint Arab stand supporting Iraq in its defense of itself and its nation, in an unjust war that was unjustly imposed on it. The Arab stand, as well as Iraq's heroic stand and its glorious achievements in the field of battle, had a great effect in convincing Iran to accept Security Council Resolution 598, a whole year after its adoption, although Iraq had announced its acceptance of the resolution and its readiness to implement it as soon as it had been passed, and from the standpoint of self-confidence and capability.

Now, more than 1 year after the war between Iraq and Iran ended, international efforts are still under way to develop the cease-fire agreement into a just and lasting peace beween the two neighboring Islamic states, to avoid turning it into a state of no-war-and-no- peace that holds great danger for the stability and security of the entire region. Recently, the United Nations renewed its efforts, through its secretary general, to reconcile viewpoints between Iraq and Iran. We hope that these efforts will be successful so that peace negotiations between the two sides mnay be resumed in a direct manner in accordance with the cease-fire agreement toward the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. We should not let this occasion pass without appealing to the Iranian leadership to respond to the human need to exchange prisoners of war and return them to their families, in abidance by the noble shari'a and in keeping with international laws.

During this past period, we spared no effort in highlighting the responsible constructive Iraqi stand, and to rally support for it at international forums and through our bilateral contacts with world leaders, especially those of the superpowers. We shall continue to stand by Iraq, the nation of brotherhood and faith, to reach a just and honorable peace between the two Muslim neighbors, which ends interference in the internal affairs of others, solves their mutual problems, restores neighborly relations, guarantees the security and well-being of the Arabian Gulf countries, and strengthens peace in the entire region.

As for the Lebanese problem, we have given it great attention and devoted great efforts to solving it. The situation in that country has deteriorated to a level that has produced serious signs of the country's partition, thus threatening the entire Arab order and exposing the region to the danger of balkanization and fragmentation.

From this standpoint, we have supported the formation of the higher tripartite Arab committee, established at the Casablanca summit, to work toward Lebanese reconciliation. We have expressed on every occasion our support for the good offices of our brothers the members to complete the task entrusted to them.

We have great hope that the accord achieved by the Lebanese parliamentarians while under the hospitality of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the care of the tripartite Arab committee, will form the basis for reestablishing Lebanese national unity and sovereignty over all of Lebanon in order to start rebuilding the country. We also hope that all Lebanese factions will abide by the agreement to achieve their common goal.

I take this opportunity to express the deepest appreciation to King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, and the Government of Saudi Arabia for their earnest and successful efforts, in cooperation with His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, to achieve these important positive results.

As we express our deep pain over the criminal act which took the life of late President Rene Mu'awwad, we derive hope from the fact that our Lebanese brothers have managed to overcome that calamity by electing President Ilyas al-Hirawi. We wish his excellency success in bearing his historic responsibility, certain that his election constitutes a major step toward the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord.

In line with the constant principles that Jordan upholds, and in embodiment of the principles of the great Arab revolution, whose banner Jordan has always carried, we have always taken the initiative to close the ranks of our nation and unify its decision. One of the fruits of this position and these initiatives was that God granted us success in establishing the Arab Cooperation Council, which joins us with our brothers in the Yemen Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq, and the Arab Republic of Egypt in one framework based on an advanced formula of pan-Arab action. Our aim is to promote that action to serve the mutual interests of our peoples, while avoiding the pitfalls of the past. This framework offers our nation a successful example of socioeconomic development at a time when economic groupings assumed an important vital role in the international arena. This council is part of our nation, and it belongs to this nation. We hope that it will contribute, with its two contemporaries, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, to boosting joint Arab action, enforcing the status of our nation, and enhancing comprehensive Arab action in the framework of the Arab League and other institutions of Arab cooperation.

On the bilateral level, the government has continued to promote Jordan's relations in all fields with all sister states to activate joint committees on various levels between Jordan and a number of Arab states to reinforce and perpetuate this cooperation.

On the international level, the government worked to strengthen its friendship with all nations, from an outlook of mutual interest and respect, and in keeping with the high international reputation which we have managed to build over the years. Jordanian diplomacy has been active in international forums to give a bright and realistic image of our country. Our presence was effective in the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations, where we contributed positively with our brothers in defending and making gains for our causes.

Our expatriate citizens, students, and workers have never been far from us. The government has continued to build bridges for them. It established the annual meeting of these brothers in their homeland in the conference of expatriate Jordanians to strengthen their links with their people and their country, and to give them the opportunity to help build their country.

Our position in the Arab and Islamic world and on the international scene depends primarily on our internal position and our values that grow from the cohesiveness of our home front. It also depends on our ability to express correctly our values and heritage, and to mobilize our resources and creative abilities to keep abreast with the progress of history and meet the requirements of development and progress. To complement parliamentary life and the democratic process, a royal commission will be formed to draft a national charter that defines the parameters of our march, based on our Constitution and the basic principles that are fundamental to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It will define the basic national and pan-Arab central concepts of nationalism and patriotism that will guide the state and direct it. The emergence and activity of political organizations will be based on these concepts and definitions. This charter will then be presented to the people in a general referendum so that it becomes the product of a comprehensive national decision. [applause]

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives: The reality of our presence under the dome of the Parliament house, on this blessed day, indicates beyond the shadow of a doubt that we have begun a new phase in the continuous progress of this good Arab country, Jordan. It would do no harm for us to remember, as we take our first steps along this road, that we are not groping in the dark. We are not moving in a vacuum, nor are we starting from nothing. Our path is clear, and we shall not be led astray because it is the path of development, construction, and progress.

Our principles are constant, and we shall not swerve from them, because they are the principles of the great Arab revolution, which is the essence of our national existence. Our circumstances are known, as are our limitations and challenges. Facing them will only make us more resolute and steadfast. Our achievements are many and manifest, and they will only be a source of pride to us. Our military and civilian establishments are well-founded and growing. We shall see them only as monuments of pride, security, and growth. A few weeds cannot destroy the trees of a bountiful garden, nor suppress the scent of its flowers.

The achievements of our country—people, government, and institutions—have earned the testimony of friend and foe, both near and far. They are so well-founded and clear that they can neither be obliterated nor erased. The responsible, constructive, and alert spirit is what prevents errors and wards off dangers. The optimistic outlook that looks to the future in hope and anticipation is what prevents defeatism and degeneration.

My faith in you as citizens and as representatives of our good Arab people strengthens my hope that the functions of your esteemed House, both in supervising the executive authority and in engaging it in a constructive, responsible dialogue, will reap a good harvest, God willing, that will bring strength and progress to the Kingdom and bring security and prosperity to all citizens. Participation is the basis of democracy. It is not an end in itself, but a means of coping with the issues of the country, the problems of society, and the real interests of the people.

I am certain that we are united in believing that the nation needs those who remove stumbling blocks from its path to continue its progress—not those who add new ones to stop this march. Let us all cooperate to tend the tree of life and, with our own hands, water it. Only in this spirit will success meet the parliamentary experience, in whose resumption we rejoice today through God's grace, and with His help.

We pray to God to illuminate our hearts and minds, and to inspire us to good counsel and correct utterance. He is our Lord and our ally. My God's peace and blessings be with you.

'Arar Elected House Speaker, Delivers Address

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[Text] The House of Representatives adjourned its session today after it elected Sulayman 'Arar as House speaker during the second round. 'Arar then delivered the following speech:

[Begin 'Arar recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed colleagues, I thank you very much for this vote of confidence in which I will take pride as long as I live, and I honestly beseech God to enable me to carry out this duty effectively and capably to satisfy God and the good people you represent. From the beginning and on behalf of you all, I extend to his majesty the king [applause] my deepest and warmest thanks for allowing these pleasant and fresh breezes to blow toward our country these days to refresh hopes and revive dreams through democracy, participation, and aspirations for a future of stability and prosperity.

On behalf of you all, I also extend my thanks to the executive authority represented in his excellency the prime minister and the ministers, who assumed responsibility for holding the general elections, which were witnessed by the whole world and by every citizen, in an atmosphere of integrity, freedom, and neutrality. These warm democratic currents will continue to blow toward our homeland under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn [applause] until our democratic experience, which our people deserve, becomes deep-rooted.

Esteemed colleagues, we have an excellent opportunity to build our homeland and restore the citizen's confidence in his country's constitutional institutions. The first arena in which we must prove our democratic trend is this honorable House. I believe that the speaker's major duties are as follows:

1. To enjoy absolute and total neutrality toward the various currents and persons who compose this House. I pledge to you all that I will never encroach on the right of any deputy to express his opinion and exercise all the rights of his membership, even if he holds opinions and beliefs that differ from my own. [applause] Your House will find that it is its own master and that it is observed only by your consciences, the Constitution, and order. The honor of the speaker of this House stems from your own honor. Therefore, we will work together within the rules of your House to protect your persons and your decisions and implement them seriously and clearly.

2. To emphasize the independence of the legislative authority as stipulated in our Jordanian Constitution. The speakership will exert efforts to protect this independence honestly, publicly, and secretly to enable your honorable House to play its role as defined by the Constitution. Your honorable House, which was elected by the Jordanian people for that purpose, will work side by side with the other two sisterly authorities in our country. Your House will be, God willing, the real bridge between the citizens and the state's various institutions. It also will be an effective monitor of the various activities, guaranteeing effective performance, safeguarding the citizens' rights, and protecting their interests as stipulated by the Constitution.

3. All of us will work to spread the spirit of love and tolerance so that the House can implement the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution and its spirit in the various fields, beginning with the public liberties, including the freedom to establish parties and the freedom of expression until the noble principles contained in our Constitution, such as the principle of equality among the citizens in terms of labor and dealings, become deep-rooted. We will deal with the various issues of the society on this basis.

4. This House will endeavor to give supremacy to objectivity, which is based on logic, supported by figures, and related to reality, to deal with the people's present and future issues, whether by treating the economic situation—in finding suitable job opportunities and overseeing public funds—or by managing our economy according the state's resources to strengthen and support this trend. God willing, there will be a detailed investigation before any criticism is voiced. Moreover, objective study supported by figures and based on purely scientific bases will form the basis for any recommendation, study, or directive.

Honorable colleagues, our people have lived their democratic spirit during the past days. Your House has regained the keys to participation in decisionmaking and formulating the future. God willing, we will all stand up to the level of the confidence of the people and the leader in us. Our democratic experience, which was announced a few hours ago, will be watched by the whole world. The time when Israel used to boast that it is the only democratic state in the region—in spite of its racist democracy, which is based on murdering children, demolishing houses, and deporting innocent people—has gone forever. [applause]

The whole world is now seeing the emergence of another country, which is small in its resources and which neighbors Israel and faces it with a democracy that is deep-rooted in its traditions and based on its Islamic Arab culture. Therefore, it will be a humanitarian democracy that wishes good for all human beings, sides with the weak, and supports and protects right and justice.

As deputies, we must prove through practice that we are worthy of shouldering the trust vested in us to protect our country's achievements and lead our society's development and march toward improvement. This cannot be achieved without spreading the spirit of love among us, and the spirit of confidence between us and the citizens and the state institutions. This cannot be achieved without tolerating the opinions of each other, no matter how much they differ from our own; without holding our discussions in good spirit; and without dealing with each other in a spirit of goodwill. This means we must fear God and fulfill the task with which we were entrusted. This experience is being observed, and our enemy will not abandon its attempts to create problems for us.

O God, guide me to be unbiased and fair among my brothers and colleagues in this House, taking care of them and being honest with them. O God, do not let this day be the last of my knowledge of your love and confidence. O God, grant me the honor on this good occasion of beginning this march. O God, our people are watching their democratic experience with great joy, so do not disappoint them. Our spiteful enemy is watching our experience with fury, cynicism, and dissatisfaction so, God, please grant us success in what will increase its dissatisfaction and do not let it rejoice over our misfortunes. O God, grant us success in uttering the truth and protect us from making mistakes and from narcissism and kill in us, O God, our love of loftiness and adulation. Thank you. [end recording]

The House of Representatives is expected to reconvene its session at 1530 to resume the discussion of topics on the agenda.

Following the king's speech, the Senate held a session under Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi. During the session, members took the constitutional oath and elected two deputy speakers and the committee to reply to the speech from the throne.

CBJ Sets Interest Rate for Letters of Credit

JN2311133389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 89 p 6

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Wednesday [22 November] issued a memorandum allowing banks and financial companies in Jordan to pay a minimum interest of five per cent annually on all funds deposited with them by customers for letters of credit (L/Cs), clear drafts and guaranteed time drafts.

A CBJ statement said the measure was deemed necessary to enable Jordanian importers to make appropriate returns on amounts of guarantees in cash when they commence procedures for imports. But, it said, this should take place with a cash-guarantee margin as defined earlier by the CBJ.

The CBJ earlier defined the cash guarantee rates as follows:

a. 30 per cent on imports of all food supplies and medicines which cannot be produced locally, primary materials used in the local industry like packaging and packing, and spare parts for industrial machines and equipment used for agricultural production so as to support the industrial and agricultural sectors.

b. 70 per cent on the rest of imported commodities.

c. 80 per cent on all commodities imported through the free zone, provided that this will be exacted in foreign currency from the agent who must draw from any one of the following sources: his own foreign account, foreign cash or incoming transfers in foreign currency.

Paper Calls for Reassessment of U.S. Policy

JN2111133089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Nov 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Washington: Will It Assess Its Policy Toward the Palestinian Cause?"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday that Israel will not rush toward a peaceful settlement in the region. A few days ago, he reiterated his past statements to the effect that Israel will not withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, claiming that the Palestinian cause is not among the more urgent or more dangerous issues in the region.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration has started to assess the opportunities that are available to the peace process in the region after concerned parties had enunciated their stands toward this peace process.

Shamir's recurrent statements against a peaceful settlement and against the principle of the exchange of land for peace, not to mention his insistence on not withdrawing from the occupied territories, will facilitate the assessment the U.S. Administration is carrying out. However, it is important to mention here that this administration is partially responsible for the results it is analyzing—results which are not reassuring and which imply that the chance of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region is far less than what most conservative parties had hoped for. This is true especially when considering that Israeli practices that are hostile to peace have resulted from U.S. policy, which continues to provide Israel with moral and material support in spite of these Israeli practices.

From this premise, it would be better if Washington takes the initiative and reasseses its own policy toward the Palestinian cause because this policy is a major factor that has contributed to the current deadlock in the peace process in the region. From the time Washington began to adopt a mild stand on the call for the convocation of the international conference, going along with the Israeli schemes to push the Palestinian cause into a maze, peace opportunities started to dwindle to the point where Shamir explicitly announced that Israel will not rush toward a peaceful settlement. Washington now must reassess its policy unless it also believes that there is no rush to attain a peaceful settlement in the region.

Any serious and courageous assessment of the deadlocked peace process will inevitably make Washington adopt the call for the convocation of the international conference and for expediting its convocation. This is true especially since there is a semi-consensus on the international level that this conference is the only suitable mechanism for the invigoration of the peace process. Moreover, the only objective of the substitutes put forth by Israel is to abort the attempts under way to establish a just and lasting peace in the region.

Aside from this, the U.S. role will not have any positive dimension, and the United States will not regain its credibility in the region—credibility which is becoming more and more eroded.

Syrian Army Troops Reported Moving Toward Beirut

NC2811172889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Syrian Army vehicles have been seen moving toward the combat lines in Beirut, the Southern Suburb, and al-Shuwayfat. The reasons for this activity are not clear.

AFP and REUTER tonight reported that hundreds of Syrian soldiers and over 50 Syrian tanks have taken frontline positions in southern Beirut in the past 24 hours.

Army Directs Antiaircraft Fire at Syrian MiG

NC2811103689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] A military source has announced a Syrian MiG flew over al-Hadath, al-Hazimiyah, al-Fayyadiyah, and al-Yarzah [in East Beirut] at 1115 hours today. The Army directed antiaircraft fire at the aircraft, the source added.

'Awn Reacts on Overflights

NC2811123789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] At a meeting with journalists in B'abda Palace today, General Michel 'Awn said: We create initiatives. What matters is that we should stand up so that the world may stand with us and recognize our rights. The deputies went to al-Ta'if with that right, but they waived that right and came back, he said.

'Awn added: We will exonerate no one from his guilt. Let them kill us if they are stronger. However, he said, I assure you that the international will will change and no one will crush us. We are Lebanese and we are not dominated by any superpower or Arab or other state.

Gen 'Awn announced that a French delegation, including very prominent figures, will arrive in the republican palace tomorrow.

He remarked that diplomacy has its own backstage methods and involves lying and deception which preclude the recognition of rights. He said this diplomacy involves commissions, conspiracies, and manipulations.

Gen 'Awn repeated what he had told LE FIGARO, that this will be the last battle and that the time for truth has come.

He emphasized that the world must recognize the legitimate Lebanese right to resist occupation.

Speaking about the spontaneous rapport between the palace and the public, he said: We have started to shake off the mentality of the Ottoman Empire, in which those in authority are isolated from the people.

Responding to a question, Gen 'Awn said: Bkirki has never deviated from the course.

Commenting on Syrian overflights, Gen 'Awn said: Syrian MiG's cannot affect our willpower.

West Beirut Sources Deny Preparations for Attack

NC2711220289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Citing Islamic military sources this evening, REUTER reports that preparations, so far, are inadequate to launch an attack.

Meanwhile, ASSOCIATED PRESS cited military sources in West Beirut, which declined to be identified, as denying the presence of military preparations along the fronts. The sources affirmed there are no moves on the ground that indicate a confrontation is imminent. The sources added there have been no changes on the fronts since the declaration of the cease-fire.

In an interview with French Television, Channel 2, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: We will win the battle.

Al-Hirawi Cabinet To Appoint New Army Commander

NC2811104789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The cabinet began a meeting in Shtawrah at 1120 today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Ministers Nabih Birri, Michel Sasin, and George Sa'adah were absent. The cabinet will discuss the abnormal situation in the eastern area, and is expected to decide on the appointment of a new Army commander, an intelligence director, and a foreign ministry secretary general.

'Awn Dismissed as Commander

LD2811113789 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1128 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, 28 Nov (KUNA)—The Lebanese Government today relieved General Michel 'Awn of his duties as commander of the Lebanese Army. The government of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi had held a meeting in Shtawrah, at the "Park Hotel," in east Lebanon, and examined the current situation in the Lebanese arena.

The government has put General 'Awn under the orders of the Lebanese Defense Minister Albert Mansur, and Staff Brigadier Emile Lahud, has been appointed commander of the Lebanese Army in place of General 'Awn after being promoted to the rank of general.

Military sources have told KUNA that they expect General 'Awn will immediately reject this decision. They added that the Lebanese Government will then consider the deposed General 'Awn as a rebel officer and will ask the army command to go after him.

Lebanese Defense Minister Albert Mansur has asked all military personnel to announce their allegiance to the legitimate authority. He said: "Today General Emile Lahud became your commander and until yesterday the commander was Michel 'Awn."

He also asked all officers and soldiers to the Lebanese Army to join the legitimacy [as received] and show allegiance to the new commander. He added: "He who announces his allegiance to the legitimacy remains part of the institution, and he who rebels against legitimacy leaves the institution."

General Emile Lahhud Named

NC2811115889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi's cabinet meeting ended at 1305. Ministers 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Muhsin Dallul, Souren Khanamirian, and Albert Mansur emerged, in that order, from the meeting room. Minister al-Rasi announced that Navy Brigadier General Emile Lahhud has been appointed Army commander after having been promoted to the rank of general.

Information Minister Edmund Rizq said General Michel 'Awn has been placed at the disposal of the defense minister and Major General Sami al-Khatib at the disposal of the prime minister. He added: The Council of Ministers has decided to appoint Suhayl Shammas, Lebanon's ambassador to Bonn, as secretary general of the Foreign Ministry to replace Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lam', who has been placed at the disposal of the interior minister.

For his part, Defense Minister Dr Albert Mansur has called on all officers and non-commissioned officers to pledge allegiance to legitimacy now that Gen Lahhud had been appointed the new Army commander.

'Awn Rejects Dismissal

NC2811150089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] A source close to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has declared that Gen 'Awn rejects the decision dismissing him and appointing a new Army commander. The source said that all decisions adopted by the Syrian-appointed administration are void and unconstitutional.

Lebanese Foreign Ministry Official Replaced

LD2811133189 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, 28 Nov (KUNA)—The government of President Ilyas al-Hirawi today relieved Ambassador Faruq Aba al-Lam' of his duties as secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

Government sources have informed KUNA that the government of Dr Salim al-Huss has appointed Lebanon's ambassador in Bonn, Suhayl Shammas, to be secretary general of the Foreign Ministry in place of Ambassador Aba al-Lam' who has been placed at the disposal of the Foreign Ministry.

The sources added that the dismissal of Ambassador Aba al-Lam' was decided at the end of a session held by the Lebanese Government in Shturah, at the "Park Hotel" in the al-Biqa' region, in east Lebanon.

The government had also dismissed the commander of the Lebanese Army, General Michel 'Awn, who has been replaced by Staff Brigadier Emile Lahhud after the latter was promoted to the rank of general.

Presidential Decrees on Government Formation

NC2611131689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Statement made by Information Minister Edmond Rizq in Shtawrah—live]

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met with his excellency the president in the presence of the prime minister at 1100 today. At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the president called for 2 minutes of silence in mourning and sorrow for his excellency martyr President Rene Mu'awwad. The president then told the ministers that participation in shouldering the responsibility during the present phase is a national sacrifice and a national duty. He lauded the ministers' initiative in responding to the call of duty. He stressed the need during the present phase for complete solidarity between all the officials and all the sons of the one people.

His Excellency Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss then spoke, sharing His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi's sentiments toward his excellency the departed martyr, President Rene Mu'awwad, and regarding the general situation in the entire Lebanese homeland. He then reviewed the draft statement of policy that was approved by the Council of Ministers.

I now will read out Decrees Nos 1 and 2, which were issued yesterday, concerning the formation of the Council of Ministers:

Decree No 1: On the basis of the Constitution, the president of the republic decrees the following:
Article l: The government is considered resigned and the decrees providing for the appointment of a prime minister and the formation of the cabinet are cancelled as of the date of this decree.
Article 2: Dr Salim al-Huss is named Prime Minister.
Article 3: This decree shall be published and communicated to whoever it is necessary. This decree shall come into effect as soon as it is issued.
Done in Shtawrah on 25 November 1989.
Signed: Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the republic.

Decree No 2: On the basis of the Constitution, particularly Article 53; on the basis of Decree No 1 dated 25 November 1989 naming Dr Salim al-Huss as prime

minister; and in accordance with the prime minister's proposal; the president of the republic decrees:
Article 1: Prime Minister Salim al-Huss is appointed foreign and expatriates minister; Michel Sasin, deputy prime minister and labor minister; Nabih al-Bizri, minister of economy and trade; George Sa'adah, minister of post and telecommunications; Edmond Rizq, minister of justice and information; 'Ali al-Khalil, minister of finance; Souren Khanamirian, minister of industry and oil; 'Abdallah al-Rasi, minister of health, social affairs, and tourism; Nabih Birri, minister of water and electricity resources, housing, and cooperatives; Walid Junblatt, minister of public works and transport; Ilyas al-Khazin, minister of the interior; Albert Mansur, minister of national defense; Muhsin Dallul, minister of agriculture; and 'Umar Karami, minister of national education and fine arts.
Article 2: As of the date of this decree, all the decrees and conditions that contradict with the provisions of this decree shall be regarded as cancelled.
Article 3: This decree shall be published and communicated to whoever it is necessary. This decree shall come into effect as soon as it is issued.
Done in Shtawrah on 25 November 1989.
Signed: Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the republic; Dr Salim al-Huss, prime minister. [passage omitted]

'Awn Holds News Conference at B'abda on 27 Nov

NC2711192289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1721 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Statement delivered by General Michel 'Awn at a news conference in B'abda on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] I will begin by reading Document No 376 4/2 released by the Syrian Arab Republic's Information Ministry. Mr Naji Nu'man, proprietor of the Nu'man Publishing House for Culture, Juniyah P.O. Box 567: Greetings. We return to you a file containing information on the Syrian Arab Republic with a correction made to be annexed to the new copy of the information guide of the the Arab world, which you want to publish for 1989/1990. We thank you for your interest.
Damascus, 5 February 1989, the information minister.

This letter was signed and we will give you copies of the document.

What is in that correction? Of course, Syria has borders as the Syrian Arab Republic. In the original document on borders, Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea lie to the west of Syria. The required correction in 1989/1990—remember this was made on 5 February—let us see where the borders are in the new document. Geography, location, and area: The Syrian Arab Republic is located on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Turkey is located to the north, Iraq to the east, Jordan to the south, and the Mediterranean to the west. Thus, Lebanon has disappeared from the Syrian borders. I place this document at your disposal to convey it to those who talk of al-Ta'if and the future, and to all those who say this issue [words indistinct].

For Syria this issue is non-negotiable, and for us it is unacceptable. This is our stand, and I hope you will distribute these copies.

In view of this fact, that is, Syria's recognition of this document, I ask all Lebanese if Lebanon should be abolished as an entity. I ask all leaders, be they spiritual or political, Christian or Muslim, to define their stand. I ask the Arab countries, be they members of the Arab tripartite committee of al- Ta'if or other committees of the Arab League; I also ask the United Nations and all countries to give us their view on this fact before they give us advice to accept [the al-Ta'if accord] or negotiate. In particular, I put this document to all public sector workers in Lebanon—politicians, journalists, and spiritual leaders—and ask them to define their stand.

We now are at an historical juncture and must choose. I want to spare you many questions and tell you not to ask me who stands by me and who does not. Don't ask me about consensus or lack of it. The nature of my work is that of leading. When the major choices are to be made, the votes of people are not taken. This is a choice by the leadership, and a man must proceed with it and wage his battle with anyone present. Those who fail to join the battle will be judged by history and the people. Anyone willing to join, the battle can accomodate him. Those who are unwilling can choose what they please. I do not want anyone to ask me about stands. This is a frank, final, and non-negotiable stand to me, to the Lebanese people, to the armed forces I represent, and to all those working for Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. [applause]

I want to put my second question to the Syrian Army, to every individual in the Syrian Army, to every commander in the Syrian Army: Why are you fighting in Lebanon? Why are you killing the Lebanese? I will not give him the answer. Let him ask the question and answer it himself. I remind him his occcupied territory is not here, it is in the Golan. I also remind him Lebanon is not a source of concern for Syria. It is Syria which is the source of constant concern for Lebanon.

I remind the alleged government and the alleged president, who was elected in a farcical manner that was too ludicrous [laughter]—all of us would like to laugh but the farce was too ludicrous; it was too laughable and vulgar, like some of the programs the masses do not accept. Therefore, do not be a puppet for Syria. The appointed ministers immediately must leave the posts to which they were appointed and join their people, because, in the final analysis, no agent who collaborated against his people ever met with a good end, rather, they met with an ugly end. Their fate will be black. This is not a threat, I am only reminding them of firm historical, social, and political facts. Let them reread history. General 'Awn does not threaten. General 'Awn advises them. See what happens to those who collaborate with occupation; see what happens to those who collaborate with imperialism. Let them reread history. They then will realize the fate that awaits them. We have many children who have become orphans and many bereaved women because their children have died, women who became widows—all of them at the hands of the occupation forces which now again are trying to find a Lebanese umbrella. The militias, both Christian and Islamic, provided an umbrealla for the war, but when the war took on an inter-Lebanese character, they refused to fight. Today, there are those who come to provide a political cover for the war and say the government is legitimate, when it is in fact far from legitimate.

Today, following the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies on 4 November, every act that deals with authority, either within the Chamber of Deputies as a group or as individuals, and every cooperation with the occupation forces, is an illegal act that will be brought to the judiciary. The Lebanese penal code stipulates punishment. Whoever wishes to read them would find out what awaits everyone. I am talking to you while I still am in a position which people think is weak. I am the weak and I am the victim. From my position, which the people regard as weak, and from my present position of a victim, I remind them there is a doomsday for the believers in the hereafter and for the people who still are alive. This doomsday cannot be less than two fires—a fire on earth and the fire of hell in the hereafter.

A third point: Using intimidation and bullying to peddle al-Ta'if and the government. We are adopting a stand of heroism and martyrdom. Heroism and martyrdom do not belong only to those who are greater in number and possess more hardware. Heroism and martyrdom belong to those who triumph and succeed even if they are less in number and possess less hardware. They will triumph with competence. With our small number and our values, we will continue to exist, and we will triumph regardless of the sacrifice.

Those who tried once, twice, and thrice in Suq al-Gharb, let them try a fourth or fifth time. They are welcome. We are staying here, and we are not people who are scared when they hear a rumor or a report, or when they see a tank. We have become accustomed to seeing tanks and to confronting them. The Army, which failed to kill our people in Bab al-Tabbanah, will not succeed in killing our people in B'abda. [applause]

We are now at an extremely important, historic crossroads. The Lebanese people, wherever they may be, are called upon to defend their values and basic principles. We are defending our right to self-determination despite the pressures, intimidation, and killings being practiced on us. These are being brought to bear on us, our leaders, and people. We are for freedom because without freedom, there would be no life or existence. Without freedom there will be no life.

We are for Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. Proceeding from these basic principles, we can negotiate with anyone over his interests. If he has interests, we are ready to establish the best relations with him. But, far from this framework, we will defend our people and ourselves, and this is one of our basic and natural rights. Any youth who wants to take part in our defense, all army barracks are open for him to volunteer. Anyone can select the unit and barracks where he wants to volunteer. He should prepare himself for the battle in defense of Lebanon and any final battle. Let the youth not ask us where he should go. Anyone can choose where to go and where to take part. He is welcome. We stretch out our hands and open our hearts to welcome him.

Further on News Conference

NC2711203689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Regarding the war declared against him by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, General 'Awn said during his news conference: A war was declared against me yesterday, but as for me, I declare confrontation to defend the Lebanese people. He said:

[Begin 'Awn recording] The road is closed to someone who has reached a dead end. My road is open for negotiations. I do not like blood or war. I hate all forms of violence because I have experienced it and know what it is. I love peace, but I do not want capitualation. I will negotiate on the basic principles I have mentioned. Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and its people's freedom are non-negotiable. However, anything involving common interests between Lebanon and Syria is negotiable. This is not dangerous.

Al-Hirawi, regrettably, is acting as a mask [last word in English]. We understand this game. We refuse to negotiate with any Lebanese by proxy. If al-Hirawi wants to negotiate, he can negotiate with us and not against us. He must not be a Syrian cover, but a spokesman for Lebanon. He is welcome to negotiate on our behalf, and not as a mediator between us and Syria. [end recording]

Regarding the possibility of a new commander of the Lebanese Army being appointed, Gen 'Awn said he will be another Sami al-Khatib [acting army commander of the West Beirut army]. If such a commander can receive support from the Lebanese Army, he is welcome in al-Yarzah.

Al-Hurawi Warns 'Awn To Declare Allegiance

NC2711201789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] A statement disseminated today in Shtawrah and transmitted by AFP says President Ilyas al-Hirawi has warned General Michel 'Awn to declare allegiance to the legitimate government immediately to avert resorting to the language of the gun to confront rebellion and mutiny. The statement points out that the president hopes the language of love is the one that will unite all Lebanese, so the language of the gun only will be used to confront mutiny and rebellion. To achieve this, reason, discipline, and loyalty to the legitimate goverment must prevail and immediately and publicly be declared by those who were entrusted by the previous legitimate authorities with the responsibility of running its institutions.

The statement stresses the government's right to avail itself of all means and resources to restore its authority. It accuses Gen 'Awn of ignoring the new reality on the local, regional, and international levels and of resorting to the gun and terrorism, in the statement's words. The statement calls on political and religious figures in the eastern area to take a responsible stand, free from the fear and intimidation to which they daily are being subjected.

'Awn Places Officers Under House Arrest

NC2811075189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] According to information received from East Beirut, General Michel 'Awn has placed 12 senior officers under house arrest, and at least 25 others, including Jihad Shahin and Salim Kallas, under close surveillance, for fear one of them might be appointed Army commander.

Newspaper Interviews 'Awn on 'Final Battle'

NC2811105789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stressed the moment of truth has come and that this is going to be the final battle, noting: If we win the battle, we will have achieved victory.

In an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO, 'Awn said should Syria decide to attack, it will do so swiftly, before the Gorbachev-Bush summit, so these matters [as heard] may be settled at this summit.

Coordination Bureau Urges Pro-'Awn Strike

NC2711211489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The Central Bureau for National Coordination has issued a statement urging all Lebanese to observe a general, comprehensive strike of all sectors, excluding hospitals, pharmacies, and bakeries, tomorrow, 28 November. This step is to protest threats, respond to the popular will, and demonstrate the unity that exists between the people and Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn. The statement called for an open sit-in at the Presidential Palace beginning at 2100 tonight.

'Lightning Assault' on B'abda Palace Possible

NC2711172089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, Foreign Ministry acting secretary general, has emphasized that a lightning assault on B'abda Palace is a possibility. He described President Ilyas al-Hirawi as a man who does not speak without basing his statements on facts. He said that Arab, international, and Lebanese support confirms the president's statements are responsible and clear and based on the enormous responsibility he is shouldering.

Sutaytiyah said this during his visit to Shaykh Dr Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, acting mufti of the republic, at the mufti's headquarters today.

'Thousands' Stage Sit-In

NC2811065889 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Since 2100 last night, thousands of Lebanese have been staging a sit-in at the B'abda Presidential Palace compound to demonstrate their support for the liberation march under Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and to protest the threat to storm the Presidential Palace, the symbol of independent national decisionmaking.

Gulf Paper Interviews Al-Huss on 'Awn Position

NC2711120589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] In an interview with the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss was asked about the means which the government may use to deal with the partitionist state which General Michel 'Awn represents. He replied : It is natural that tackling the partitionist situation in the country should be in the forefront of the government's concerns, because Lebanon's unity is synonymous with its existence. We view Gen 'Awn's adherence to his position as a scheme which is being implemented in earnest to turn Lebanon into another Cyprus. The Lebanese cannot accept this as a fate for their country. There is no difference in this position between the people of the eastern and the western areas. All the Lebanese adhere to the unity of their homeland, he asserted.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We hope that Gen 'Awn will see the error of his ways and return to right, logic, and legitimacy, because continued adherence to his position makes him an outlaw. By holding a dear area of Lebanon hostage, he is threatening to cause a calamity to all the Lebanese. The way to end this partitionist phenomenon is by comprehensive government action, and we are prepared to mobilize all resources in order to carry it out. It is hoped that this situation will be tackled by peaceful, political means. People cannot tolerate any further bloodshed or destruction.

Asked about the possibility of taking military action to resolve the situation, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We will begin combating the Cypriotization process to which Gen 'Awn is leading the country by using all the political and peaceful weapons available to the legitimate authority. We believe that taking a stand is the best weapon the legitimate authority can use against its adversaries. We hope that this will be sufficient to end the abnormal partitionist situation and that there will be no need for any military action.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Relations With Syria

NC2411211489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] AFP carried a statement by President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening in which he called for a policy of openness between Lebanon and Syria in all security, political, and economic spheres. He added that the fate of Lebanon and Syria stems from their being neighbors. The entire world has adopted a policy of openness and good relations, he said. It is regrettable that since Lebanon's independence in 1943, there has been no entente between the Lebanese and Syrian states on various security, political, and economic issues. The differences are a burden and must be resolved, beginning with the adoption of a policy of openness between the two neighboring countries within the framework of the independence and sovereignty of each one, he declared.

Al-Hirawi, who was elected today by a majority of 47 votes, added that with this in mind, the Lebanese Government must work toward establishing good and solid relations with Syria away from the individual moods of governments.

He added: Regarding the outstanding issues, committees will be formed to discuss these. The security problem must be solved first in order to avoid any gap either on the Lebanese or the Syrian sides.

AFP also quoted President Ilyas al-Hirawi as saying that regarding the Syrian presence, he supports the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement which he helped to prepare.

Concluding his statement to AFP, the new president said: I am assuming a big responsibility. I hope that with the support of all the Lebanese, I can take Lebanon to safe shores and establish peace and accord.

Discusses Relations With 'Awn

NC2711082289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] After Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss' government won a unanimous vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies for the first time in the history of governments, President Ilyas al-Hirawi has announced he will resort to military force to confront General Michel 'Awn if the latter insists on staying in power in the eastern area, stressing he will not allow the existence of two governments and two ministers for each ministry in Lebanon.

In statements he made yesterday to foreign correspondents and carried by REUTER, AFP, and AP news agencies, he said: If 'Awn sticks to his position, I must say with regret he will have to bear the consequences. He will be an officer in this Army if he persists in his position for more than 48 hours. President Ilyas al-Hirawi added: You will know the name of the new Army commander before next Wednesday morning. I hope Gen 'Awn will make his decision according to the Lebanese will. Otherwise, the eastern area will suffer the consequences.

President al-Hirawi announced his intention to rule from B'abda and said: Whatever remains of B'abda, even a single room, will be my headquarters when the situation in East Beirut ends. He added: We are not here to start a new war. But if another conflagration will take place, it only will be for a few hours to stop those who act illegally.

Asked about the party which assassinated President Rene Mu'awwad, he said: The same party which assassinated President Rene Mu'awwad is ready to assassinate all the officials, beginning with the president. He said: We want to dissolve all the militias, and will not allow the Lebanese Army to become a militia. He stressed the Army is for all Lebanese.

Regarding relations with Syria, President al-Hirawi said: Lebanon and Syria are neighbors, and this is their fate. We must draw up a plan to end the conflicts. I think this is possible. The two countries must take into consideration their sovereignty and independence, and they must pursue a clear and clean policy.

Referring to Iraq, which supplied Gen 'Awn with weapons, he said: We also say to certain countries, without naming them, the time indeed has come for them to end their relations with any person in Lebanon who does not represent legitimacy. He said: The poor Lebanese actually have suffered for 15 years, and the time has come to embark on peace and achieve stability and security in Lebanon. Peace, President al-Hirawi added, will be for all Lebanese, particularly those who are suffering in East Beirut more than others. He said he does not want the Lebanese to forget East Beirut is crowded with refugees, and the time has come to return them to their homes.

He explained he does not wish to start a new war, because Lebanon has suffered enough. But if a new conflagration takes place, neither he nor the government will be the ones responsible for starting it.

Al-Hirawi Receives Top Army Officers

NC2611201289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Acting Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib this evening. Also attending were Brigadier General Ibrahim Shahin and Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mahmud Matar.

Government Wins Chamber's Vote of Confidence

NC2611115989 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1145 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese Government has won a unanimous vote of confidence from the 43 deputies who today attended the Chamber of Deputies session in Shtawrah. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni congratulated the government on the confidnce given by the Chamber of Deputies and gave the floor to Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, who now is delivering a government statement.

Prime Minister on New Government's Policy

NC2511174089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Nov 89

[text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated the most eloquent way to reply to the abominable crime which claimed the life of the late President Rene Mu'awwad will be to abort the crime's objective, which was to return the country to a constitutional vacuum. Dr al-Huss pointed out that the new government will pursue the line set out in the national accord document, and stated the government's principal task is to eliminate the current division in the country.

This came in a statement Dr al-Huss made to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent today.

Issues Government Statement

NC2611141889 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies session to discuss the policy statement of the new government still is in progress in Shtawrah with 42 [as heard] deputies in attendance. The session was preceded by a cabinet meeting under President Ilyas al-Hirawi and in the presence of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. Ministers Nabih Birri, George Sa'adah, and Michel Sasin were absent from the cabinet meeting. We now go to our correspondent in Shtawrah to hear the government statement:

[Begin correspondent recording] This government, in its composition, objectives, and work plan, is the national reconciliation government called for by the national accord document, a document that you ratified in a historic session. No wonder, therefore, our government has considered this document as a foundation and premise for its statement and ministerial program.

Our government is committed, with you, to the objectives and principles stipulated in that document and is keen to translate them into an effective work plan that lives up to the hopes pinned on the salvation and reconciliation march, in which an overwhelming national will was embodied. It is natural that in our quest to achieve these objectives and to implement these principles, we will spare no possibility or any of the means available to the legitimate government, because the dangers threatening the destiny of the homeland are great. We realize that either legitimacy will be strong and capable or it will not. In this approach today, we are committed to one of the most important principles on which the accord formula that was agreed upon to upgrade the political system in Lebanon was based; namely, the principle of dealings between the authorities and the balanced separation of powers.

Today we are standing at the threshold of a new era in the history of the Lebanese state in which the state's salvation lies in the need to maintain its unity, and consequently, its existence and stability, and in the need to reestablish its structure in line with the prevailing national prerequisites and with the Lebanese people's demands for unity, freedom, security, stability, and welfare. The coming era is one of serious work in order to set up the aspired new republic, whose foundations lie in the existence of a strong and just state, a state of institutions and development; and in the existence of a better society governed by the principles of equality and justice, without any segregation or discrimination between citizens, factions, or areas, and in which the criteria to rule will be under true democratic practices to ensure the prerequisites of constructive coexistence and steady progress. The peace that the Lebanese people yearn for after long suffering, and which our government will take as a title for its work plan, must be an ally and companion of this new aspired republic. Our gamble to make tangible progress toward the achievement of this aspired republic stems from our deep belief in the unity of Lebanon as a homeland, society, and state and from our relentless adherence to its freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

There can be no peace, independence, or sovereignty without true and solid unity. There is no doubt that the coexistence which still remains despite all the challenges over the past years represents the most brilliant manifestation of unity in this country.

At his inauguration, martyr President Rene Mu'awwad emphasized that national reconciliation must be comprehensive and that the peace process must not exclude anyone. President Mu'awwad was a martyr to openness, reconciliation, and peace. His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday reiterated the call for reconciliation and peace.

While embracing this call, the national accord government declares its unequivocal determination to defend the Lebanese and their future. The government will not allow anyone to embark on any adventure that would threaten the national fate. The government pledges to use all its potential and energy to eliminate the existing state of divisiveness and all illegal and unlawful forms. The government is resolved to eliminate all traces and vestiges of war and to eliminate its effects on the social, economic, humanitarian, development, and construction levels.

Furthermore, the government will spare no efforts to use all available means to liberate the land from the Israeli occupation in the south and al-Biqa'. In this regard, the government will support the brave resistance and will insist on the implemention of UN Security Council Resolution 425 which provides for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory. The national accord government has specific clear-cut objectives enjoying the support of all Lebanese and widespread international and Arab support. The government will use this local and foreign support to achieve its objectives on the road to unifying and constructing the country and establishing the state's authority and the supremacy of law throughout Lebanese territory, by means of the Lebanese forces to bring about the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces and regulate Lebanese-Syrian relations on the basis of our clear-cut, strong, and fraternal ties.

The government, while expressing its thanks to the Arab tripartite committee for its fruitful and positive efforts in helping Lebanon and the Lebanese endure their ordeal, and while voicing its gratitude to fraternal Syria for its resolute support for the Arab solution, expresses its satisfaction with the Arab committee's repeated affirmation that it will continue its work to enable the Lebanese legitimate authorities to forge ahead with their march to restore Lebanon's well-being and their effectiveness in playing their natural role in leading the country toward a better future.

The desire for a solution seems clear in the Arab and international arenas. It is the Lebanese people's right to ask their brothers and friends to transform this desire into a fruitful practical program to help advance the unity, salvation, and peace process and to defuse any mines along this path. The government realizes that the effectiveness of this desire is contingent on the Lebanese preparedness to respond to this call. The Lebanese state, through the Chamber of Deputies, has emphasized its ability and vigor in this field, which gives rise to confidence and assurance. The Lebanese citizen has demonstrated a splendid steadfastness in the face of the most ferocious challenges, developments, and dangers.

The national accord government declares its resolute readiness to shoulder its responsibilities in this regard and reiterates its determination to provide all approrpiate means to achieve these objectives. Legitimacy must be an impregnable stronghold to confront all the immense challenges facing us. Naturally, the government is responsibile for consolidating and promoting the state's forces on all levels. The government, which is a national accord government, is united to achieve the clear-cut objectives. Accordingly, the government asks your esteemed chamber to grant it your confidence. [end recording]

'Awn on New Government, Syria Talks

JN2611190489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1714 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, by Antoine Abu-Samrah—live]

[Text] [Abu-Samrah] President al-Hirawi threatened to use force in the eastern districts if you do not relinquish power. What is your response, your excellency the prime minister?

['Awn] All that has happened since 24 November after the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies is in our view legally null and void. There only are groups from which the Syrian regime named a president, prime minister, and a so-called cabinet that has no legal basis. These people were there before these alleged elections. Under no circumstances can they cover up the crime of storming the eastern districts. In any case, a storming operation would not be easy. We have decided on resistance whatever the consequences. Even if the world recognized the incumbent government, we still would view this as recognizing crime—the crime can crush, but it is not possible to justify any crime [sentence as heard]. They can commit it, but we will defend [ourselves]. I think we are not so weak. It will not be plain sailing for them.

[Abu-Samrah] General 'Awn, you are a military man who has wide experience in this field and which you showed at the Suq al-Gharb front. As a military expert, do you think the current concentrations are able to launch an attack on the eastern districts.

['Awn] In their present strength the forces are not sufficient. But there are forces that are massing in the current defensive positions at our front. But, for us, it is not just a military matter or one of military costs and benefits. It is one of principle. We will not accept the al-Ta'if agreement. This is a falsification of the Lebanese will and a document of capitulation. It was not the result of signing an agreement. This is not an agreement. It is a document of surrender which we will not sign. Not even if military force is tried to force it on us. There will not be a Lebanese relinquishment of this right.

[Abu-Samrah] President al-Hirawi says it will not be war as such. It will be a matter of hours to end the problems. What do you think he means by a matter of hours? Does he mean just capturing the presidential palace?

['Awn] I do not know what he means to say—whether hours or more. But Mr al-Hirawi, even if he has been designated president of the republic, and supposing that we did accept this capacity—he still lacks the prerogative to order a military action. A military action falls within the jurisdiction of the government as called for by the al-Ta'if agreement. Commission of this crime will be a responsibility borne by all—whatever its type and scale.

It will be a crime whether it fails or succeeds. Either way, no person in his right mind would pursue this option. Only an insane man would.

[Abu-Samrah] General 'Awn, without going into a constitutional argument, there is a fait accomplit in Lebanon now, and you are a military man who accepts realities on the gound. There is a leader of the eastern districts named Michel 'Awn. And there is a president for all of Lebanon, minus the eastern districts, named Ilyas al-Hirawi. If no storming operation takes place, do you think the fait accomplit will continue peacefully?

['Awn] I think if the Lebanese people have a right to self-determination, there is no president for all of Lebanon now, even if he enjoys recognition. Recognition must come from the Lebanese people. The requisite legitimacy is lacking. It does not exist in any area. All the people knew—even before the deputies came from Paris and were assembled—who would be named president.

[Abu-Samrah] But my question is this, General 'Awn: You are a man who accepts realities on the ground. We now have a military reality on the ground. If this fait accomplit continues, will it last long short of a storming of the eastern districts? Will it last until such time as a defintive solution is found to the Lebanese and regional problems?

['Awn] Certainly it will last as long as there is a crisis, and it will not be solved along these lines. They are not taking into account the underlying causes of the Lebanese crisis. They are attempting to impose solutions based on their external interests rather than the Lebanese interests or rights. While the solution is coming from across the border and to advance external interests no one will be able to impose it on us.

[Abu-Samrah] Certain deputies from those who elected Ilyas al-Hirawi have been named ministers but refused the appointment. Will these be able to return to the eastern districts—for instance Michel Sasin, who was named minister. Will he be able to return to the eastern district and live peacefully, considering that he rejected the portfolio but voted for Ilyas al-Hirawi?

['Awn] They may return, but they have to tender their resignations. Some are waverers, and it is not in their interest. We regard them as responsible as those in the government for any moves taken by the government. In other words, non-resignation and non-acceptance are viewed by us as acceptance and coverup for the crime—should one be perpetrated in future.

[Abu-Samrah] General 'Awn: I have a blunt question. Do you think you have the internal front wholeheartedly behind you? Do you not think that some are backing you for tactical considerations?

['Awn] The Lebanese people are 100 percent behind me. There are isolated persons among the Lebanese people.

[Abu-Samrah] General 'Awn; in his funeral oration for President Rene Mu'awwad yesterday, the Maronite patriarch talked about Ilyas al-Hirawi and referred to him as the president of the republic. He called him his excellency the president. Is there any difference of opinion between you and the patriarch?

['Awn] He is free to call him the president of the Republic. However, if the patriarch violates the will of the Lebanese people, then he will be representing only himself. He no longer will be representing the will of the Lebanese people. The patriarch's beliefs are totally different from those of Prime Minister Michel 'Awn, the head of the Lebanese state. His beliefs are spiritual and pacific, and he seeks reconciliation. We also seek reconciliation, but provided Lebanon's sovereignty and independence are preserved. We ask his eminence about his position on the al-Ta'if agreement, which they think will restore sovereignty and independence. We ask him how, and he cannot explain.

[Abu-Samrah] Gen 'Awn, there is a fait accompli, and you are a military expert on fait accomplis. You know Syria is a strong country for Lebanon—both strategically and geographically. Is there any hope of a dialogue in the future between you and Syria, if you want to play the political role you desire?

['Awn] Of course. Syria is the real actor. Therefore, I refuse to hold dialogue with those wearing masks. For example, they say: Negotiate with Mr Ilyas al-Hirawi. What does Ilyas al-Hirawi represent? He is a mask for Syria and the Syrian regime. I want to negotiate with the real actor, which is the Syrian force on Lebanese territory, so we can reach an agreement.

[Abu-Samrah] Do I understand from this that if there is hope for a dialogue one day, you—for example—do not rule out the possibility of paying a visit to Damascus, if the solution lies in such a visit?

['Awn] It is not necessary for the dialogue to be conducted by means of a visit to Damascus. The dialogue can be conducted anywhere, either directly or through mediators. But, it must be conducted between the main forces, not between images or masks of these forces.

[Abu-Samrah] Gen 'Awn, my last question—and I always return to your military expertise. Do you not think the eastern districts will be stormed, and if the intention exists to storm these districts, are the numbers insufficient in your opinion?

['Awn] We are prepared for the worst, and we are prepared to defend ourselves under all circumstances. We cannot surrender and sign any agreement of which we do not approve. The agreement would be imposed on us if militarily we were defeated. Then there would be no need to sign. That would be a fait accompli, but we would retain our right to make demands. But, if we signed, we would lose that right—the right to demand independence or return to independence in the future—because we would have done so of our own free will.

[Abu-Samrah] Gen 'Awn, I said that was my last question. However, I want to ask another—this will be the last. Is there no hope of reconciliation between you and Ilyas al-Hirawi?

['Awn] There is no difference at all between me and Ilyas al-Hirawi. I still insist he is a mask for the Syrian regime, and I do not negotiate with masks. I want to negotiate with the main actor, because if I negotiate with him, he will go to Damascus and convey Damascus' viewpoint. He will not be representing a Lebanese viewpoint.

[Abu-Samrah] Anyhow, just as we conveyed to you what Ilyas al-Hirawi said about you, he now is listening in Shtawrah to what you say about him. Thank you Gen 'Awn.

Sasin Speculates on Participation in Government

NC2611152289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Deputy Michel Sasin, who was appointed deputy prime minister and minister of labor, has issued a statement in Paris saying his participation in the government depends on the possibility of reaching a unified position with the Lebanese Front and full coordination with its leader, George Sa'adah.

Sasin was dismissed from the National Liberal Party after taking part in the parliamentary session at the al-Qulay'at airport. His house in al-Ashrafiyah was blown up by the al-Yarzah ['Awn forces] cliques while he was attending the al-Ta'if meetings.

Birri Considering Participation

NC2711150489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader and Minister Nabih Birri has stated he is still studying the subject of his participation in the government. He said this subject would be decided by the movement's political bureau.

Birri has asked the Red Cross and humanitarian institutions to go to al-Khiyam detention camp, where the Israeli occupation forces are violating international law by their actions against the detainees. He said these forces committed a quasi-massacre in the camp yesterday evening, where more than 10 detainees were martyred or wounded.

'Awn Reiterates Determination To Fight

NC2711124389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has stressed that he will fight with all the means available, even kitchen knives and stones. He described President Ilyas al-Hirawi as a Syrian spokesman who is providing cover for Syria's actions in Lebanon.

In an interview with Radio France-Info, General 'Awn said that the forces which might launch an attack will not be Lebanese. Al-Hirawi does not have forces to send against him, he asserted. He added: They kept me away from any dialogue. They do not want Lebanese patriots. They want hirelings who will implement plans that do not represent the interests of a free state.

Gen 'Awn stressed that this would be the beginning of the annihilation of the Lebanese people and their independence. It is a matter of steadfastness and of not giving up our rights, he added.

Fadlallah, Sha'ban on Mu'awwad Assassination

NC2411204089 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Lebanese Muslims took part in the Friday prayers which were held in various parts of Lebanon today. At the prayers they expressed their indignation at the inhuman and aggressive practices of the Zionist entity and world arrogance and their mercenaries against the Muslims.

Speaking during the Friday prayers held in Beirut's Southern Suburb today, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the most prominent Muslim ulema in Lebanon, said Lebanon's partition is not in the interest of the Lebanese Muslims and oppressed. It will increase their weakness. He added all Lebanese forces must work to safeguard Lebanon's unity, as the public trend of the Maronites in East Beirut is to deal a blow to Lebanese unity and form a Maronite government.

Referring to the murder of Rene Mu'awwad, 'Allamah Fadlallah said: We condemn political assassinations because they have negative effects on the situation in Lebanon.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement in Lebanon, said at the Friday prayers, which were held in Tripoli today, that the Iraqi regime's opposition to Islamic Iran's proposal for a simultaneous withdrawal of forces to the international borders and the release of the prisoners of war is a joint plot between [Iraqi President] Saddam and world arrogance against the Islamic revolution. Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban added that the Iraqi Muslim people must rise up against the Saddam regime so he cannot use them to implement anti-Islam plots by striking at the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Shaykh Sha'ban added that following the murder of the president of Lebanon, the supporters of the al-Ta'if agreement began working to appoint a successor to Rene Mu'awwad. Therefore, the Muslims must be completely alert to confront the plots of world arrogance. [passage omitted]

Al-Musawi Comments

NC2511093289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] said: We denounce and regret the assassination of Rene Mu'awwad. The Maronite political administration has adopted the Zionist policy of assassination and terrorism. It began implementing this policy in 1975, desecrating the land of Lebanon and the region, in coordination and cooperation with Israel, Saddam Husayn, and the pro-U.S. Arabs.

Brother al-Musawi stressed that we cannot uproot the evils of the United States and Israel unless we get rid of their agents like Ja'ja' and 'Awn, who are the current facades of the Maronite political administration. This task will remain the responsibility of the Muslims and honest nationalists until they implement it with determination and in sincere cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

Sfayr Officiates at Funeral

NC2511132089

[Editorial Report] Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic at 0905 GMT on 25 November begins live coverage of the funeral of President Rene Mu'awwad from Zgharta, Lebanon.

The announcer reports that the ceremonies begin with a procession from the late president's home to Zayyidat Zgharta Church. At 0923 GMT the president's coffin is carried from the church by six Lebanese Army officers and is placed on a gun carriage from the Lebanese Army's 8th Brigade while the national anthem is played. The procession begins to move from Zayyidat Zgharta Church toward Saint John the Baptist Cathedral at 0927 GMT. The president's carriage is carried by Army and internal security officers and is followed by Army and security officers carrying the six coffins of those killed with the president.

The procession arrives at the cathedral's square at 0954 GMT. Military police officers carry the president's coffin into the cathedral and place it on a special dais. The requiem service begins at 1012 GMT with Patriarch Sfayr officiating. A message from Pope John Paul II is read at 1037 GMT which is followed by a eulogy given by an unidentified speaker. The service concludes at 1055 GMT.

The announcer says the following were in attendence: Minister Ilyas al-Khazin, representing President Ilyas al-Hirawi; former Prime Minister Amin al-Hafiz, representing Speaker Husayn al-Husayni; Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, representing Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss; Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi; Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha; PRC Ambassador Yang Guhao; Italian Ambassador Antonio Mancini; Sulayman Tony Franjiyah; Robert Franjiyah; Deputies Talal al-Mir'ibi, Bakhus Hakim, 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zayn, Rafiq Shahin, Nasri al-Ma'luf, Butrus Harb, Mahmud 'Ammar, and Habib Kayruz. [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 1147 GMT on 25 November reports that a Syrian delegation consisting of Vice President Zuhayr Mashariqah, Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib al-Fadil, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, security and intelligence chief of Syrian forces in Lebanon, also attended.]

The service ends at 1055 GMT and the congregation files out of the cathedral. The president's coffin is carried from the cathedral and placed on the gun carriage at 1120 GMT. A procession begins toward Zayyidat Zgharta Church where the announcer says the president will be buried.

Authorities Interrogating Assassination Suspects

LD2711155189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1338 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, Nov 27 (KUNA)—The Lebanese authorities are interrogating two suspects, in connection to last week's assassination of late President Rene Mu'awwad, press reports said here Monday.

Daily AL-SAFIR quoted well-placed security sources as saying that the first suspect, an army officer, was arrested in Ehden, Mu'awwad's hometown, in the process of sticking an explosive device to Mu'awwad's car prior to the assassination.

President Mu'awwad and six of his escorts were killed in a blast which jolted West Beriut Nov 22, Lebanon's Indepencence Day. Ten others were also killed and 30 others were injured in the incident.

The paper said that the second suspect was arrested as he was making a telephone call, instructing him to call off the mission he was entrusted with.

The sources, however, did not disclose the identity of the [word indistinct] suspect nor the party he is affiliated with.

Egypt's Mubarak Sends Al-Hirawi Congratulations

NC2511140989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable of congratulations to Ilyas al-Hirawi on the occasion of his election as president of the Republic of Lebanon: Your excellency brother President al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon: I'd like to express my sincerest wishes on the occasion of your election as president of the Republic of Lebanon and the fraternal Lebanese people's confidence in you. The Lebanese people have thus proved their courageous ability to continue the course of accord and their firm determination to overcome all the challenges and obstacles, renewing the hope that this people will be able to achieve the stability they desire and enjoy the prosperity they look forward to. I stress to you on this occasion Egypt's support for the fraternal Lebanese people in their tribulations and its backing for their march.

Chamber of Deputies Extends Term by 4 Years

NC2411210489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies held a second session at 2100 this evening and approved an urgent bill extending the chamber's term, which expires at the end of this year, for 4 years until the end of 1994.

Sa'adah 'Surprised' by Ministerial Appointment

NC2511071889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Citing a source close to the Phalangist Party, AFP reports that Dr George Sa'adah does not intend to participate in the government but he also does not oppose the government. Dr George Sa'adah was cited this morning as saying: I was surprised at my appointment as a minister in the new government. The question of my participation will depend upon a decision by the political bureau whose decisions are made in the light of consultations and contacts on the basis of the unity of the party's stand and ranks.

Assassination Attempts Against Fadlallah Reported

NC2811100889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] According to the French magazine L'EXPRESS, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has been subjected to three assassination attempts in the past 3 weeks. The magazine refers to severe conflicts between moderates and hardliners in Hizballah.

According to the magazine, the conflicts largely are due to the fact large sums of money were placed at the disposal of the party by Tehran and Damascus.

Sham'un Responds to Al-Hirawi Statements

NC2711114689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] National Liberal Party [NLP] leader Dany Sham'un and NLP Secretary General Emile Najm visited Bkirki [seat of the Maronite patriarchate].

After the meeting, Sham'un said: Discussions dealt with the political developments and Mr al-Hirawi's threats against a free area to usurp power.

Sham'un noted Al-Hirawi did his utmost to prevent the Syrian Army's entry into Zahlah and expressed surprise at his statements today. He stressed there will be no negotiations before al- Hirawi recants these threats and that steadfastness is the current way out.

He said meetintgs are continuing in the eastern area.

Says U.S. Intimidating Lebanese

NC2711132689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un went from Bkirki to B'abda, where he met with General Michel 'Awn.

After the meeting, Sham'un accused U.S. intelligence of intimidating the Lebanese people by disseminating reports on Syrian concentrations. He said he was informed of these concentrations this morning, and that General 'Awn was informed of them 7 days ago.

He stressed that the Lebanese people do not fear intimidation and will continue to be steadfast.

He said America will collapse but the Lebanese people will not. He said: We are alert to all rumors and to what is taking place on the ground, and all precautionary measures have been taken. We are unafraid. We will shelter our children and continue the war.

Hizballah Denies Members Arrested in Spain

NC2711081589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday evening, Hizballah denied news agency and newspaper reports that some of the persons arrested by the Spanish Interior Ministry on charges of possessing explosives are Hizballah members or are in touch with Hizballah, as Spanish police reports claim.

The statement said that Hizballah categorically denies involvement in this mattter and declares that those whose names were mentioned have no connection or affiliation with Hizballah.

Hizballah expressed grave concern over the likelihood that there might be malicious intentions behind this fabricated charge, which may entail hostile measures against Muslims resident in Spain.

DFLP Official Killed in Sidon 24 Nov

NC2511074289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] According to security sources in Sidon, Muhammad al-Hursh, alias Abu-al-Lutf, military official in charge of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the Sidon area, was killed under suspicious circumstances yesterday.

Israeli Planes Raid al-Biqa', Sultan Ya'qub

NC2511153489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] According to security sources, Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian fedayeen bases in the Sultan Ya'qub village in al-Biqa' today. One person was injured in the raid. The sources added two Israeli fighters fired air-to-surface missiles at positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the Sultan Ya'qub area, which is under the control of Syrian forces.

Army Positions Attacked in Mountain Area

NC2611151789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Lebanese Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh have been targets of heavy machinegun and rocket fire since 1400 today.

In another development, fighting broke out today between Amal gunmen and the forces of the Popular Nasirite Organization in Sidon. Machineguns and rockets were used in the clashes, in which three gunmen were wounded.

Further on Moutain Attacks

NC2711194789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah ['Awn forces] army cliques resumed their attacks on nationalist positions today. They have been directing mortar and heavy-caliber machinegun fire at the areas of Dahr al-Wahsh and Ra's al-Jabal in 'Alayh and Shwit since shortly before 1300 from their positions in Prins and [word indistinct].

In another development, the Israeli occupation forces are reinforcing their positions in the area of Hasbayya. They have brought a number of vehicles to Naqqar Kawkaba and deployed a number of howitzer guns opposite Abu Qamhah. Sources in the border strip have reported a helicopter yesterday landed in [passage indistinct]. An Israeli reconnaissance plane last night also flew over western al-Biqa' and the western slopes of Mount Hermon. [Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1740 GMT on 27 November in a report on the Israeli reinforcements notes: "Citing a security source in the south, AFP reports that for the first time, the Israeli Army has introduced 306-mm caliber guns into the security strip. The source added that approximately 15 armored vehicles, Merkava tanks, and trucks carrying heavy-caliber artillery pieces arrived last night in the Abu Qamhah area in the eastern tip of the security strip."]

Resistance Fighters Attack Southern Positions

NC2711082689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Resistance fighters have attacked two enemy positions in al-Shumariyah and 'Alman. The Amal Movement has declared responsibility for the two attacks, saying it succeeded in destroying the fortifications of the two positions and inflicting a number of casualties.

Resistance fighters attacked a position of the agent militia on the outskirts of Anan and clashed with the militiamen for about 15 minutes, inflicting a number of casualties. The militia losses could not be determined because of the cordon and raking carried out by the enemy in the area.

Media React to 'Awn Claims, Lebanese Situation

Radio Refutes Syrian Involvement

JN2711155289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, in an unconcealed attempt to shuffle cards and divert world attention from the reality of the struggle in Lebanon—a struggle between the legitimate forces determined to retrieve the unity of the country and the partitionist renegade clique contracted to the Israeli scheme—the renegade al-Yarzah general has resorted to the policy of exaggeration by claiming the Syrians soon will attack the eastern sector. He talked about Syrian military moves in an attempt to suggest his problem is with Syria and not with the Lebanese people. He affirmed to foreign radio stations he will not surrender, and that the new Lebanese government and elected president are illegitimate.

The indisputable truth, which cannot be concealed by falsification, is that 'Awn's problem has become one with the Lebanese people represented by the president of the republic, the Chamber of Deputies, the national accord government, and key political and religious figures. The renegade general grossly abused the ambitions and hopes of the Lebanese and stabbed them in the heart of their aspirations when he started his mad war last March. He then took the stand as archenemy of the al-Ta'if agreement and the national accord march. He attacked the deputies and prominent religious figures and assassinated Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad, thus creating an irretrievable loss for Lebanon and wounding the Lebanese, who still hurt and bleed.

This is not the first time the hand of treachery extends to a national leader. This same hand assassinated martyr Rashid Karami, one of the most prominant political leaders defending Lebanon's unity and Arab identity. One must point out that 'Awn's mad war against the Lebanese last March—a war targetted at destroying their national unity and paving the way for partition and sectarian entities—was at that time enveloped in hysterical animosity against Syria. 'Awn thus attempted to suggest to the world that the existing struggle was a Lebanese-Syrian struggle and not a Lebanese-Lebanese struggle. Today, as Lebanese legitimacy prepares itself to put an end to rebelliousness and regain the unity of the country, 'Awn resorts to the same suggestion, with the difference that the Lebanese people now have a decisive leadership at their disposal determined to attain accord and remove all obstacles in the way of Lebanese unity.

'Awn undoubtedly will face a siege if he does not give in to the Lebanese will. This siege, however, will be purely Lebanese based on the forces of legitimacy—forces able to end rebelliousness and return issues to normality. 'Awn's attempt to ignore facts and distort the stands of the forces of legitimacy will not convince anyone and from now on will be useless. The whole world announced its support for President al-Hirawi and the national accord government. It praised the stand of the Chamber of Deputies and its courage in confronting the partition and fragmentation conspiracy. The whole world also condemned the heinous crime committed by 'Awn, which in the final analysis, turned against its perpetrators. The proof is the awe-inspiring Lebanese unanimity to realize accord and reform and strengthen Lebanon's Arab and cultural role.

Ending the military rebelliousness is no longer only a unanimous Lebanese demand, but also an Arab and international demand. From this perspective, 'Awn's fabrications about Syria will fall on deaf ears. This does not mean Syria is absent; Syria places its resources at the disposal of Lebanese legitimacy to serve the march of accord, regain sovereignty, and elevate the status of Lebanon. The conspiracy against Lebanon also targets Syria's steadfastness and national stands. In addition, Syrian and Lebanese security are one indivisible unit. Syria's help to Lebanon was and shall remain the help of one brother to another.

Al-Hirawi To 'Eradicate' 'Awn

JN2811084189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN says: The speedy election of President al- Hirawi, the formation of the national accord government, and the renewal of a new constitutional term of the Chamber of Deputies are within the framework of placing the rebellious minority before a legitimate constitutional reality that it cannot evade easily, because no matter what the conspiracy is, it is impossible to assassinate an entire people.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: From this premise, we can understand President al-Hirawi's determination to eradicate the abnormal divisionist clique in the eastern area, which 'Awn represents, especially after all efforts to prevent 'Awn from continuing his usurpation of authority and taking the eastern area and its people as a hostage have failed. There now is no escape from resorting to cauterization as the last medicine to be used to safeguard Lebanon's unity and Arabism, and to achieve reforms in it.

Newspapers Comment

JN2811085589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 27 Nov 89

[Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Lebanon Has Begun the March of Salvation," AL-BA'TH says: Once again, the Lebanese people have proven they alone have the say in their country's affairs, and that all plots by Lebanon's enemies inevitably will fail. There are many indications of this, the most recent being the tragedy which fraternal

Lebanon suffered by the assassination of its martyr president, Rene Mu'awwad. Less than 48 hours after the heinous crime, the deputies held an urgent session and elected Deputy Ilyas al-Hirawi the new president of the republic.

AL-BA'TH asserts: This only proves the Lebanese people's greatness and great ability to survive. Furthermore, the Lebanese people and their representatives proved to all those who had doubts that the resolution of salvation has been made, as martyr President Rene Mu'awwad said in his speech on the independence anniversary.

AL-BA'TH adds: The election of a new president for the country; the subsequent formation of the reconciliation government only hours after the election of the president; and the fact the government submitted its statement, from which it gained confidence and which stressed the implementation of the reconciliation document, to the Chamber of Deputies; and the expected adoption of a number of measures and resolutions, as reported by news agencies—all these fit into the course of advancing the march of salvation.

AL-BA'TH says: Hence, we believe the march of reconciliation and salvation actually has begun. It now is impossible for all those offended by the desired solution to stop or hamper that march. This is due first and foremost to our Lebanese people, who take such great stands. The people who managed to overcome many of the debacles, not witnessed by any other people, not only are worthy of living, but also of achieving all their aspirations and hopes. Our Arab people in Lebanon have proven they always are stronger than all the plots of the enemies of its unity and Arabism. They also proved they are capable of crushing its enemies' tools—the tools of the homeland's division and fragmentation, such as Michel 'Awn.

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial, saying: Lebanon has begun the march of salvation, and its people will not allow anyone to obstruct its march of salvation, which enjoys the Arabs' support and backing, with the exception of a minority which sold itself to the enemies of the homeland and people.

Under the headline "'Awn's Problem With the Legitimacy Forces," TISHRIN says: The fact that neither can be contested nor covered by falsehoods is that 'Awn's problem now is with the Lebanese people, represented by the president of the republic, the Chamber of Deputies, the reconciliation government, and the political and spiritual figures.

TISHRIN adds: The rebel general has inflicted great damage on the Lebanese people's ambitions and hopes and stabbed them in the heart of their aspirations when he launched his mad war in March and stood as an archenemy to the al-Ta'if agreement and the march of national reconciliation. He attacked the deputies and the spiritual figures and assassinated Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad, thus inflicting great damage on the homeland and a wound which still is open and causing pain.

TISHRIN says: Now that Lebanese legitimacy is preparing to end mutiny and restore the country's unity, 'Awn resorts to deception and hawkishness and tries to show the conflict as being a Lebanese-Syrian, and not an inter-Lebanese, one.

TISHRIN asserts: Undoubtedly, 'Awn will face a siege if he does not submit to the Lebanese will. This siege, however, will be a purely Lebanese one based on legitimacy, which is capable of ending the mutiny and returning things to normal.

TISHRIN says: 'Awn's attempt to jump over the facts and distort the legitimate forces' position will not convince anyone and no longer will bear fruit. The whole world has announced its support of President al-Hirawi and the national reconciliation government. The whole world also denounced the heinous crime which 'Awn committed by assassinating President Rene Mu'awwad.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria announced several times that it places its resources at the disposal of Lebanese legitimacy to serve the march of reconciliation, the restoration of sovereignty, and the promotion of Lebanon's standing. The conspiracy to which the fraternal country is subjected targets Syria and its steadfastness and national stands. Syria's help to Lebanon was, and will remain, the help which brother will extend to brother. Syria has no ambitions in Lebanon except for Lebanon to recover its health.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Final Session of Melli Shura

LD2711200689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Speech by President Najibullah at final session of the Melli Shura in Kabul on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed members of the Melli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, friends, and dear compatriots. In accordance with the instructions of Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the fourth session of the first term of the Melli Shura of Afghanistan will end during the first week of Qaws [month beginning 22 November].

I am pleased to meet with you, dear representatives of the Afghan nation, at the end of the fourth session of the first term of the Melli Shura. This assembly has assessed urgent issues of our society from various points of view and made the necessary decisions. The fourth session of the Melli Shura ends at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan and our people are passing through sensitive, destiny-making days. The country's military and political situation is such that the armed opposition extremists continue killing the Muslim people of our country, exerting military presure on Nangarhar and Khowst, and firing missiles on to other regions.

Despite the favorable national and international conditions for a search for a political solution, the armed extremists and their patrons have not refrained from the military path. As we have seen, many people consider the Geneva accords to be a means of attaining their goals and impose a military solution to the issue of Afghanistan. While the signing of the Geneva accords became possible as a result of accepting the fact that a military solution is [word indistinct].

Therefore, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Supreme Command of the Defense of the Homeland, and the High Command of the Armed Forces are primarily engaged in organizing the country's defense and have disrupted the efforts of the warmongerers to capture whatever region. During this time, the efforts of the extremists to block supply routes have often been prevented and main supply routes have remained open. The entire world now understands the vain efforts by the armed extremists. Biased and far-from-the-truth claims by the leaders of the opposition that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is unable to defend itself independently have proved completely wrong. We have shown in practice our ability to defend the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Afghanistan. We declare firmly that in the future too we will be able to defend our country's independence and freedom. [applause]

The situation in the northern, northwest, western, and southern regions and the central areas of the country are relatively calm at present. A notable number of the commanders inside the country, with a feeling of responsibility toward the homeland, have halted their combat operations. The fact that thousands of armed and unarmed people in the northern and northwestern regions of the country and in some other parts of the country are joining in this process is a demonstration of the opposition's sound understanding of the existing realities and the correctness of the national reconciliation policy. During the past 3 months, 74 groups including 26,000 armed and unarmed men, have joined the national reconciliation policy. Protocols on ending armed clashes have been signed with 113 groups which include 30,000 persons.

On one hand, the return of the Soviet troops, the sincere observation of the Geneva accords, and the deepening of the national reconciliation policy by the Republic of Afghanistan and on the other hand, resorting to military presure, the showers of rockets, and state terrorism by a number of the extremists groups, have created new stands and trends in the ranks of the opposition. A number of the armed opposition forces and especially a large number of the groups inside the country have expressed differing and various views about the unnecessary continuation of the war.

Esteemed representatives, during the last 3 months the preparation and transportation of primary goods for the people, which is considered to be an important direction of the work of the state, continues. Despite the destructive and plundering activities of the extremists, the Republic of Afghanistan has taken serious measures to ensure the transportation of fuel and foodstuffs and created fixed state stockpiles to a certain limit.

In order to revive the country's economy, the Republic of Afghanistan has taken steps to export some items to foreign countries. This had previously been halted for various reasons; it has now been resumed in order to support a number of projects. With the passing of each day, the positions of the Republic of Afghanistan—taking into account the development and expansion of democracy and the activity of the country's parliament—is being enhanced. The regime of the Republic of Afghanistan has shown and will continue to show the world its ability to live.

In order to consolidate the process of democracy and legality in the country, seven new laws on various aspects of social life have been praised during the current year, and 21 amendments and attachments have been added to previous laws as the situation required. The main source of inspiration of these laws and amendments is the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation.

At present, the thoughts of the people of the world and the region, including the people of Afghanistan, are drawn to the restoration of peace through the ending of war and the political solution of problems. Some time ago, the free tribes of North Waziristan held a large elected jirgah and made important decisions on the cessation of war in Afghanistan and the search for a political solution, and issued a resolution in this respect. The tribes of Afghanistan convened their jirgah. Welcoming the mediatory role of the representatives of the jirgah, the Republic of Afghanistan invited the jirgah to send an authoritative delegation and to start their Islamic and humane efforts for the ensuring of peace in Afghanistan.

At international level also, a series of changes have taken place to alleviate international tension. These make humanity, including the people of Afghanistan, hopeful for peace in the region and the world. The Republic of Afghanistan hopes the forthcoming meeting of the heads of two great countries, the Soviet Union and the United States, will speed up peace in the region and in our country. The Republic of Afghanistan determinedly defends the country's independence and territorial integrity and the life of the people of the country; it does not for a single moment ignore the any possibility that might be useful to achieve the long-standing wish of the people of Afghanistan; that is, the ending of war and the ensuring of peace in the country. It gives priority in its tasks to the process of negotiation, contacts, and understanding with the armed groups.

Dear friends, you have seen that aggression and interference from the territory of Pakistan against our country and the life of our people continues. As in the past, the armed opposition uses military threats and pressure, and implements the warmongering and subversive plans of its supporters. The Republic of Afghanistan is obliged to strengthen its Armed Forces and take the necessary measures to defend the country. Therefore, in line with the authority conferred on the president by Article 3 of the resolution of the Loya Jirgah of year 1368 [beginning 21 March 1969] the state of emergency has been extended by the Loya Jirgah for another 6 months from the date of expiration of the state of emergency, in order to repel the armed aggression from abroad, to defend the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country, to defend the values and the honor of Afghans, and for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and the ensuring of peace and calm in the country. The state of emergency which has been declared based on inexorable factors can be revoked before the expiration of the specified period providing those factors no longer exist.

Dear deputies and senators, I would like to note that despite the intensification of military pressure, economic sabotage, highway robbery, and state terrorism by the extremists the activities of democratic institutions, including the country's Parliament, continue as in the past and the Melli Shura of Afghanistan has fulfilled important tasks during the continuation of the state of emergency.

A glimpse of the activities of the Melli Shura during the fourth session reveals that the esteemed deputies and senators have taken necessary decisions on the chief and important matters of our society. The hearing of reports by deputy prime ministers, the ministers of transport, commerce, electrical energy, light industry and foodstuffs, defense, internal affairs, and state security on their tasks, the urgent settlement of public complaints are all demonstrations of the efforts of the chambers of the Melli Shura. This leads to the complete introduction of democracy and the enhancing of the role of the people's representatives in the affairs of the realm and [words indistinct].

The convening of a Melli Shura session for the explanation of the Interparliamentary Union's goals, the election of a parliamentary group and its executive board is an important step toward the enhancing of the international credibility and prestige of Parliament. We expect that the interparliamentary groups will correctly represent the people of Afghanistan as regards their cause, the cessation of war, and the ensuring of peace, through contacts with the parliaments of other countries, credible international organizations, and personalities. It will. moreover, facilitate the cooperation of the parliament of Afghanistan with the parliaments of other countries in various aspects and directions. The visit by Melli Shura representatives to the Kabul-Bagram road, Watan nursery, and a number of hospitals, the financial aid to a number of the country's needy organizations are examples of the high feeling of responsibility about the present and future situation of the country by the esteemed representatives. A number of the esteemed Melli Shura representatives have taken steps to contact the armed opposition groups for the cessation of war and the ensuring of peace, and they have gained positive results.

Esteemed representatives, last year, at the end of the second sitting of the first session of the Melli Shura, the Republic of Afghanistan presented from this platform proposals for the solution of problems inside and around Afghanistan and remarked that new circumstances require that parties, political organizations, and the armed opposition groups extend their hands to one another for the ensuring of peace and to jointly restore peace in their country. A year has passed since then. The extremists, however, without having the least feeling of responsibility, have continued their war and murder. Unfortunately, a large number of our compatriots have lost their lives as a result of the continuation of war. I would like once again, with a feeling of national, Islamic, and patriotic responsibility, to state that the present conditions and situation demands that all forces should take into consideration the existing realities and the security interests of the other side and approach them realistically.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan desires the participation of all forces in a broad-based government, without the use of force or resorting to arms. In order to meet the most important demand of our people, that is, the maintenance of peace in the country, we have put forward many proposals aimed at solving the domestic and foreign questions of Afghanistan. The purpose of our proposals is the immediate cessation of war and the healings of wounds caused by the war.

The experience of the past year has shown that a military solution not only does not have any winners, but it also brings about further problems, death, and destruction. Those who are still under the command of foreigners and who are engaged in the destruction of their homeland, should know that no persecuted human of our homeland, nor the present generation, nor the future of the country will forgive the warmongers and the destroyers of the common home of the Afghan people. We state categorically that the condemnation of this or that side is not the question; the only question is the maintaining of peace. For 3 years now, the Republic of Afghanistan has on several occasions declared and observed a unilateral cease-fire, which has been consistently broken by the extremists, as a result of which thousands of our compatriots on both sides have been killed.

At present, bloody clashes are taking place between the opposition itself in order to safeguard their personal and group interests, and dozens of lives are lost daily from all sides. The launching of missiles from long distances has killed hundreds of our compatriots including children, young people, and the elderly. On whose shoulders will lie the responsibility for all this murder and destruction? At present, thousands of our refugee families are suffering abroad from hunger and poverty. However, the leaders of the extremists do not allow them to return to their homes. [Words indistinct] and the warmongers have to bear this responsiblity.

Esteemed senators and delegates, in the course of the Melli Shura sessions, you have witnessed bloody incidents in the bombing of Kabul city and you have seen how mercilessly they eliminate our brothers and sisters. I appeal to you, in view of your credentials, to go to the commanders inside the country and explain to them the truth and your objective views about what the opposition still unfortunately calls the jihad.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I again address the patriotic people of Afghanistan, the elders, the religious leaders, the leaders of tribes and nationalities, and the 'ulema: The time has come to recall the fervor and enthusiasm of the jirgahs of Mirways Baba and Ahmad Shah Baha and the memories of the Ghazis [holy warriors] of the anticolonialist wars. It is time to work for the ending of war and to maintain peace and reconciliation.

I address the armed opposition and the commanders inside the country: The year which has passed has shown that war is not a solution. The problem of Afghanistan should be solved by the Afghans themselves inside Afghanistan. Do not allow foreigners to violate and intervene in the sacred land of the Afghans. No matter how much events keep Afghans away from each other and no matter how many times their faces are slapped by ill-intentioned hands, again as a saying goes, nails cannot be separated from the flesh. The Afghans should sit with each other and solve the problems of their own home. You know what dark clouds of mistrust, disbelief, and murder have covered the clear sky of the Afghan love, brotherhood, and sincerity in the course of the past years. Our compatriot refugees, the suffering of whom is painful, are feeling within their bones the pain of being away from their homes, too.

The war has had thousands of unfortunate direct and indirect results. It is only our people, our Afghan sisters and brothers who felt the heat of its fire. Let us pour war on this fire and extinguish it. I have full confidence that the proud people of Afghanistan have the ability, competence, and knowledge to show to the world once again the historical peace-seeking tradition of their fathers and forefathers in this sensitive stage of the country's history.

During the centuries the patriotic people of Afghanistan have been famous for their generosity, kindness, frankness, humanity, and peace-loving attitude in the world. We have full confidence that with the help of great God, yesterday's clouds of revenge will be removed and the nation of Afghanistan will play its role as the followers on the path of their fathers and forefathers.

Allow me to declare the conclusion of the fourth session of the first term of the Meli Shura of Afghanistan, based on Article 86 of the country's constitution. I pray Almighty God to bring peace and friendship to our peace-loving land and that Afghans, like brothers with iron fists, will embark on the construction of their war-torn country. We ask (?help) from great God for ensuring peace in Afghanistan. Success comes from God. [applause]

Wolasi Jirgah Member Killed in Qandahar

LD2711184389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Excerpt] We have heard with sorrow that ('Abdul Rashid Kamal), a representative in the Wolasi Jerga and commander of the tribal unity in Qandahar Province, was killed last Friday night by Saudi Wahhabis. We all come from God and shall return to him. [preceding sentence in Arabic] The body of ('Abdul Rashid Kamal) was buried with honor in his family graveyard in Qandahar Province.

Lieutenant General Nurul Haq 'Ulumi, governor general of Qandahar and commander of the military, the leadership of the Governor General's Office of Qandahar, and a large number of family and friends attended the funeral of the late ('Abdul Rashid Kamal), may his soul be happy. [passage omitted]

French Official Seeks Unity of Mujahidin

BK2411005089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2031 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 23 (AFP)—France wants the Afghan resistance to overcome internal differences so as to allow the Soviet-backed Kabul government to be replaced by a broadly backed government, a top French official said here Thursday [23 November].

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Francois Schee. said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Paris "very much wants the Afghan resistance to surmount their differences" so that the Kabul regime may be replaced "by a government with the backing of the majority of the Afghan population."

The number-two man in the French Foreign Ministry arrived here Wednesday on a 48-hour visit which included talks with several Afghan mujahidin leaders and representatives of French humanitarian organizations operating here.

He said that "everything that currently encourages dissent among the resistance movements" played into the hands of the Kabul government. He added that the Afghan guerrillas could "count on the support of the French authorities".

In response to a question, he said that France's policies had "in no way changed" since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan February 15. "We continue to support the resistance movements," he said. But he added that at the same time Paris continued to affirm that "only a political solution will put an end to" to the fighting in Afghanistan.

Mr. Scheer denied rumors circulating in Kabul in recent weeks that France was planning to reopen its embassy there. It was closed on the eve of the Soviet withdrawal, as were most Western embassies.

Mr. Scheer also denied that the French Government planned to stop aiding the dozen or so private French humanitarian organizations operating here following the death of Vincent Gernigon, a young volunteer with Handicap International who was killed in the southwestern Afghan province of Helmand in August. "That's totally false," he said. "These subsidies will remain what they have always been." "We continue to support the actions of non-governmental French organizations in Afghanistan," Mr. Scheer added.

His statements sought to dispel fears among private aid workers here following a September Paris meeting with Bernard Kouchner, secretary of state for humanitarian affairs, that the government was considering cutting back its aid. Organization representatives said that Mr. Scheer had told them French Governmental aid would not be decreased but would be "redistributed" in a way that would put top priority to helping the some three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Mr. Scheer expressed concern in a meeting with aid workers here that the security of some might be threatened because of the actions of certain non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan, an aid official said. Mr. Scheer said he was especially concerned about the "risks" of possible "hostage taking", according to Jean-Francois Rubin, the coordinator in Peshawar of Veterinarians Without Frontiers.

Protocol With USSR on Kabul Airport Equipment

LD2411231289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] A protocol for equipping Kabul International Airport with modern tools and machinery was concluded yesterday in Kabul between the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR.

On behalf of the Afghan side the protocol was signed and exchanged by Sherjan Mazduryar, minister of civil aviation, and on behalf of the Soviet Union by (Hendalman), deputy chief of the commercial section of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

In accordance with this protocol, aircraft communication equipment, fire extinguishing equipment, and snow-clearing vehicles, worth R1.2 million in long-term credit from the USSR, will be handed over to the Afghan side before the onset of winter.

A spokesman of the Civil Aviation Ministry said that after the equipment has arrived Kabul International Airport will be made ready for aircraft flights in any weather conditions.

Mujahidin Government Delegation Departs for U.S.

BK2611131889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] A two-member delegation of the Afghan Interim Government [AIG] has gone to the United States for high-level talks with American officials on the Afghan issue. The AIG news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], says the delegation is expected to join the [word indistinct] president, Mr Mojaddedi, in Washington, who is already there for a medical checkup.

Mujahidin Leader Rejects Call for Elections

BK2311155589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 23 (AFP)—A key Afghan rebel leader rejected Thursday a call for the election of a transitional Afghan Shura (Assembly), saying he could not guarantee the security of the poll.

"The general elections are not acceptable to us," Yunis Khalis, who heads one wing of the Moslem fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction, said in statement issued here. Mr Khalis, interior minister of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) formed in February, said his ministry "will not be responsible for the elections and their results."

The election call was issued Wednesday by Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the AIG's chief justice and central electoral commissioner, who declared that the Shura was needed since the AIG's tenure would expire in April. Mr Gaylani, who leads the moderate National Front of

Afghanistan, appealed the other resistance groups to help ensure the success of the election process.

The call for elections followed persistent demand by another fundamentalist rebel leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who heads a rival branch of Hezb-e Eslami. Mr Hekmatayar resigned as AIG foreign minister in August in protest over what he called the interim government's failure to hold elections within the "stipulated" six-month period since it was formed.

Mr Khalis also criticised Mr Hekmatyar's recent call for the Soviet Union the United States to cut arms supplies to both sides in the Afghan conflict, saying "there is no other way to topple the puppet Kabul regime except Jihad (holy war)." He also disagreed with Mr Hekmatyar's suggestion that Afghan army officers be recruited to help topple the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, saying that was "equivalent to taking sides with the Kabul authorities."

BAKHTAR Details Recent Military Operations

LD2411125189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 23, BAKHTAR—In the past three days a number of 277 enemies were either killed or wounded in several areas of the provinces of Nangarhar, Paktia and Laghman. However, two Afghan servicemen and one civilian were killed and eleven injured including civilians due to the firing of heavy weapons on the security posts during the same period.

In Nangarhar Province, the joint forces of the enemy attacked with heavy weapons on the Afghan security posts in Samar Kheyl, Behsud and Surkhroax [placename as received] areas in Nangarhar Province as a result of which two persons were wounded. In a counterattack carried out by the Afghan Armed Forces 161 foes were either killed or injured.

The armed extremists also attacked with heavy weapons on some areas of Gardeyz city. Isma'el Khan and [words indistinct] Paktia Province, killing two Afghan servicemen and injuring five others. One civilian was also killed and four including children and women wounded in these attacks.

Similarly, the Afghan Armed Forces attacked on the supply convoy of the enemy in Kharkando of Laghman Province killing 32 foes. A large quantity of the enemy's arms and munitions also fell to the hand of the armed forces during these operations.

According to another report, six American surface-to-surface rockets, Sacker 20, which were deployed on the areas of Safi Mountain were detected and obtained by tribal detachments. The rockets were adjusted to be fired n residential areas.

Rebels Down Transport Plane at Qandahar Airport

BK2811092689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, fierce fighting is continuing between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces near Qandahar city and the airport. MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, the Afghan Interim Government news agency, reports that the mujahidin have captured a security post near Qandahar airport. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition during the attack.

The news agency adds that the mujahidin shot down a Kabul regime transport plane while it was landing at the Qandahar airport. The news agency did not give the number of those killed or wounded.

Bangladesh

Analysts Predict 'Violent' Anti-Ershad Strikes

BK2411114089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 24 (AFP)—A series of campaigns next week aimed at ousting Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad by the country's two main opposition parties could become violent, political analysts said here Friday.

They said previous strikes or sit-in demonstrations had been peaceful because the government ignored them and there was no question of face saving by either side. But with Mr. Ershad and the opposition political parties now locked in a war of words over strikes, "we fear there could be some violence," they added.

The leading opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the eight party alliance it heads have called for a nationwide dawn to dusk strike on November 29 as a further "no confidence" demonstration against the government and to call for "free and fair" elections.

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia and the seven party alliance it leads have also announced plans to stage a sit-in demonstration in front of the high-security government secretariat complex in downtown Dhaka on November 28 to push similar demands.

The ruling Jatiya Party (JP) of Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless 1982 coup by removing an elected BNP government, has also launched a massive anti-strike campaign.

At a meeting Thursday in southeastern Chittagong District, President Ershad asked the country's opposition politicians to stop calling anti-government "hartals," general strikes, saying people were tired of the stoppages and had rejected them.

He was quoted by the local press Friday as saying he hoped "good sense will prevail on the political parties, now in competition to call hartals frequently (and) shun this destructive path in the greater interest of the nation."

Mr. Ershad referred to Monday's massive JP anti-strike rally in Dhaka and said it was proof people had "rejected the opposition's negative and destructive" campaign, and showed they oppose "frequent stoppages."

Sheikh Hasina rebuffed Mr. Ershad's call at a rally Friday in Chittagong, saying "there was no alternative to hartals to establish the rights of the people," adding "armed struggle was the other alternative (and) those who were attempting to resist the strikes did not value basic demands of the people."

The Awami League was reportedly considering rescheduling its November 29 strike because of school tests, sources said, adding, however, that faced with the government's massive anti-stoppage rally it had decided to go ahead. "It is now a prestige issue," an opposition leader said.

The government campaign started ahead of BNP's nationwide strike on November 5 to push their demands for the resignation of Mr. Ershad's government, and for fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The country's major opposition political parties boycotted the 1988 polls, saying Mr. Ershad's government was "autocratic" and elections could not be free and impartial if he remained in power. The JP swept the polls.

The government in its media offensive claimed that each day of strikes caused some 2.5 billion takas (78 million U.S. dollars) in lost production, and that the opposition's 66 strikes to date had caused total losses of 165 billion takas (5.15 billion dollars.)

Sheikh Hasina charged Friday that the government's claim was "exaggerated" and was an attempt to cover up "massive looting and misappropriation of national wealth by certain corrupt quarters," proving the government was trying to "shift the blame for the losses on others."

Equally determined to go ahead with its sit-in, the BNP and its seven party alliance issued a statement Friday calling on democratic loving and nationalist people from all professions to ensure its success.

Analysts here, however, said the league and the BNP had failed to resolve their differences and jointly pursue the ouster of Mr. Ershad. The two women oposition leaders briefly united in 1987 in a failed campaign to oust the government, and in the last few months have traded accusations about who was to blame for the failure. Observers said that unless they were united Mr. Ershad would continue to benefit from the split in their ranks.

New Chief Justice To Serve for 1 Month

BK2511073489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 25 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has appointed Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury as Bangladesh's new chief justice for one month, a senior official here said Saturday [25 November].

Justice Chowdhury, 64, who will assume the post on December 1, will retire on December 31, his 65th birthday, the official said, adding that he did not know who would succeed Justice Chowdhury. Sixty-five is the mandatory retirement age for chief justices.

The new chief justice is to replace Justice F.K.M.A. Munim, who turns 65 on November 30.

Justice Chowdhury, who was acting chief justice in 1984 and in 1986, made headlines in September when he read out a verdict nullifying part of the controversial Eighth Amendment of the Constitution after it was challenged by a group of opposition lawyers on behalf of two citizens. The amendment, passed by parliament in 1988, allowed high court benches outside the Dhaka jurisdiction under Mr. Ershad's judicial decentralisation policy.

Tribal Rebels Kill 3 Settlers in Chittagong Hills

BK2511152289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Nov 25 (AFP)—Suspected tribal rebels fired and threw grenades in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong Hill Tracts, killing three people and injuring another in the last two days, local security sources said Saturday [25 November].

A 12-year-old girl was killed and a man injured Saturday in Khagrachari District when Shanti Bahini rebels pounded them with grenades and opened fire as they were returning home after collecting fuel wood from a nearby forest, the sources said. The man was being treated at a local hospital for serious splinter and bullet wounds, they said, adding that both victims were Bengali-speaking settlers from the plains.

In an incident Friday, two settlers were mowed down by rebels firing automatic guns in neighbouring Rangamati District, the sources said. The insurgents, mostly from the majority Chakma tribe, withdrew into the forests bordering the Indian state of Tripura after the attacks, they added.

The Shanti Bahini has been fighting a 15-year bush war for tribal autonomy and the expulsion of thousands of Moslem settlers from the 13,000 square kilometers (5,200 square miles) of rugged region where the tribesmen, mostly Buddhists, are the majority.

Since January 1980, more than 1,000 civilians, including some 800 settlers, have been killed and hundreds more injured in rebels attacks that have also left thousands of houses burnt, according to military sources.

Editorial Assails Gandhi Over Disputed Shrine

BK2011113889 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Nov 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Short-Sighted Policy"]

[Text] The Government and several political parties in Bangladesh have joined some Muslim countries in expressing their growing concern over the deteriorating communal situation in India. What adds to their concern is that the rising tension between the two major communities in that country has now become almost an integral part of an unpredictable and complex election scenario in which major contending platforms appear ready to exploit every issue for their electoral gains.

There are, of course, other issues which have contributed to the worsening communal situation in India. Weeks of preparation among a section of militant Hindus to lay the foundation of a temple near the site of the 16th century Babri Mosque in Uttar Pradesh created the much-feared explosive situation in the country's most populous state which has the largest bloc of seats in the Lower House of the Indian parliament. Looking back, one must regard it as a near-miracle that the foundation-laying ceremony of the temple last week went off in relative peace without causing a bloodbath. Since the authorities in some states, including West Bengal, succeeded in preventing members of the majority from participating in the ceremony, one wonders if administrations in the states governed by the ruling Congress, especially Uttar Pradesh, should not have tried to prevail upon the militants to stay away from the disputed site. If they could not, the reason is it is in the states, ruled by the Congress, the party that makes the loudest commitment to secularism, where the relationship between the two main communities has been steadily going from bad to worse in recent years.

Over the decades, we have learnt to accept that communal forces, regardless of their religion, sect and creed, do not necessarily act in a responsible manner in India or elsewhere in South Asia. This painful realisation is shared by all right-thinking people throughout the region. In this context what causes the greatest dismay among political experts here, probably also in India, is instead of taking a firm stand against rising hostility between the two communities, some politicians—hopefully perhaps only a minority—are out to placate the communal forces. In this respect, the performance of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is particularly dismal.

In a speech delivered at Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh on November 3, Mr. Gandhi called for the return of Ram Rajya, a mythical state based on Hindu epic, Ramayana. True, the Indian leader, the son of a Parsi, who once called himself an agnostic, might have used the expression in a metaphorical sense. But the speech delivered just when tension was building up over the proposed foundation-laying ceremony of the temple near Babri Mosque served to woo the Hindu voters. His other speeches have followed the same line, evoking strong criticisms from Muslim leaders, especially Syed Abdullah Bukhari, the Imam of New Delhi's Jama Masjid [mosque] who has just called upon his community to support the opposition platform. Mr. Gandhi may well shrug off the Imam's threat, in the belief that by taking a covert communal line, he has won more votes than the votes he has lost.

It is undoubtedly a dangerous short-sighted policy to politicise the communal feelings, no matter which community it seeks to placate. If returned to power after the November 23/24 election, it will be Mr. Gandhi who will be called upon to make new concessions to Hindu communalists for the realisation of the mythical Ram Rajya the Prime Minister has promised to his voters in Uttar Pradesh. If he loses, he will leave behind a dangerous legacy for the new Government.

The alternative to the approach of Mr. Gandhi is the cool-headed determined policy pursued by the Basu administration in West Bengal to keep the communal elements in their place, instead of letting them influence the campaign. We are glad that the policy has worked well, just as we are pleased that the commitment of this country to communal harmony remains as strong as ever.

India

President Dissolves Lok Sabha on Cabinet's Advice

BK2711155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has dissolved the eighth Lok Sabha. This follows the recommendation of the Union Cabinet which met in New Delhi today. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, presided over the meeting. The Cabinet recommended that the houses be dissolved with immediate effect. The president accepted the recommendation and signed an order dissolving the eighth Lok Sabha in exercise of the power conferred upon him by Subclause B of Clause 2 of Article 85 of the Constitution.

Reportage on Lok Sabha Elections Continues

Additional Election Returns

BK2811034089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0259 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Now, here is the latest overall tally from the Lok Sabha. Total seats—543;
Elections held—525. Party position:
Congress-I—176;
Janata Dal—87;
BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]—73;
CPI-M [Communist Party-Marxist]—30;

AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam]—11;
CPI [Communist Party of India]—8;
RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party]—3;
FBI [Forward Block]—3;
National Conference—3;
TDP [Telegu Desam Party]—2;
Shiromani Akali Dal-Mann—2.
Congress-S—1
Independents and others—19

Congress-I Ministers Losing

BK2811080489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] With most of the remaining 86 results to come in from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where the Janata Dal is leading, no political party is in sight of an absolute majority in the ninth Lok Sabha. Of the 439 [of the 525 seats contested] results declared so far, the Congress-I tops the tally with 178, followed by the Janata Dal, 94; BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party], 77; and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], with 30. The position of other parties is: AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munneta Kazagham], 11; CPI, 9; RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], 3; Forward Bloc, 3; National Conference, 3; Telugu Desam, 2; Congress-S, 1; and independents and others 20. The Shiromani Akali Dal-Man has bagged 6 [seats from Punjab].

Reports of more Congress-I leaders losing have come in. In Uttar Pradesh a former chief minister, Mr Ramnaresh Yadev, has lost to Mr Sharad Yadev of the Janata Dal from the Badaun constituency. The union minister, Mr Krishna Sahi, has lost to Mr Lalit Vijay Singh of the Janata Dal in Begusarai in Bihar.

However, according to agency reports the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has established a lead of 76,000 votes over his nearest rival Mr Rajmohan Gandhi in the Amethi parliamentary constituency.

At Fatehpur, the Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, is leading over his Congress-I rival, [Union Minister] H.K. Shastri, by a margin of over 47,000 votes after the first round of counting.

Gandhi Leads in Own Constituency

BK2811045489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 28 nov 89

[Text] Counting of votes in the Amethi segment of the Amethi parliamentary constituency started this morning. The counting was held up in the segment following technical objections raised by the Janata Dal workers. According to last reports, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was leading by a margin of over 45,000 votes over his nearest Janata Dal rival, Mr Rajmohan Gandhi.

'Complicated Bargaining' Predicted

BK2811043189 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 28 Nov 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In India, the opposition is attempting to put together a proposal to the president for a minority government after the inconclusive general election which produced the hung Parliament. But there are doubts about the leadership of the opposition. At the same time, the Congress Party is insisting that as the largest single party it should be given the first chance of forming government. Our Delhi correspondent Mark Tully has just sent us this report.

[Begin Tully recording] Newly elected members of Parliament and many disappointed candidates are now arriving in Delhi to take part in the complicated bargaining that is ahead. This is the first time India has not elected one party to power. The National Front, the largest opposition grouping, has already started negotiations with the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and the communists. It will need both their support if it is to form a government. Many National Front leaders would like the BJP to join the government because they feel it would have a greater interest in its survival and would not press so hard for the implementation of the more controversial policies. The trouble is that the Communists have said they will not support a government which includes the BJP. So now, the National Front is negotiating with both parties to support its government from outside. The National Front also has to sort out its own leadership. It was assumed that Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh [Janata Dal leader], who was promoted as their candidate for the prime ministership during the election, would be the automatic choice. Now he has said he does not want to join the government. This statement need not necessarily be taken at face value, but there are those in the National Front who claim Mr V.P. Singh is too prone to gestures of self-sacrifice to be prime minister.

Meanwhile, the Congress spokesman continues to maintain that the president should call his party first, but the Congress are unlikely to be able to form a government without the support of the Communists, and that will not be forthcoming if Rajiv Gandhi remains prime minister. The Congress spokesman has angrily dismissed any attempts to dictate to his party who should be their leader. Both the Congress and the National Front are hoping that if they are given the first chance to form the government there will be large-scale defections to their side. [end recording]

Parties Schedule Meetings To Assess Options

BK2711162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] As the final outcome of the general elections is shaping up fast, all political parties have started taking stock of the emerging political scenario. The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, already had talks with a number of senior party leaders and union ministers in New Delhi today on the emerging situation. The party's working committee is meeting in the capital on Wednesday [29 November] to assess the position. The party spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the Congress-I is not in a hurry and will wait till the complete picture emerges. The Congress-I will not have, as he said, any unprincipled alliance with any party, especially with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], to form a government at the center.

The National Front leader, Mr P. Upendra, said the front is in constant touch with the left parties and the BJP. He expressed confidence that the National Front will be able to form the government with the outside support of the BJP and left parties.

The National Front leader and the Janata Dal chief, Mr V.P. Singh, said in Kanpur that the political situation in the country is still quite fluid. He however visualized a new political equilibrium shortly.

Another senior Janata Dal leader, Mr Chandrashekhar, has said that the opposition parties which came together to fight the Congress-I should also cooperate to form a non-Congress-I government at the center.

The BJP national council is meeting in New Delhi on Friday to discuss the postelection scenario. The party spokesman, Mr Krishan Lal Sharma, told newsmen in New Delhi that the BJP is keeping its options open on the question of joining or supporting from outside a non-Congress-I government at the center. He said efforts should be made to form a non-Congress-I government.

Senior leaders of the CPI [Communist Party of India] and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] will meet in New Delhi separately on Thursday to discuss the political scene. The spokesperson of the two parties said that the CPI and the CPI-M were committed to help the National Front to form a government.

'Count Postponement' in V.P. Singh's Constituency

BK2711163089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 27 (AFP)—India's Election Commission Monday ordered a 24-hour delay in vote counting from the constituency of opposition shadow prime minsister Vishwanath Pratap Singh. The commission said the count postponement in northern Fatehpur constituency was ordered because of bad weather in the area.

Mr. Pratap Singh, the prime mover behind opposition unity, immediately rushed back to his ward in northern Uttar Pradesh State from New Delhi Monday saying his absence from Fatehpur could lead to cheating in the count. Almost a million voters comprise Mr. Pratap Singh's constituency where the opposition leader is running against a minister of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.

Friday's polling in Fatehpur, 570 kilometres (342 miles) from New Delhi, was marred by a shootout near a balloting centre where Mr. Pratap Singh was present. He was unhurt in the gunplay.

Mr. Pratap Singh, 58, resigned from Mr. Gandhi's cabinet as defence minister in 1987 and formed the Janata Dal (People's Party) which has won 107 parliamentary seats so far in elections to the 545-seat Lok Sabha or lower house.

Before leaving for Fatehpur, the opposition leader termed India's political situation "very fluid" referring to elections results which pointed to India's first hung Parliament.

Janata Dal Denounces Media for Biased Reporting

BK2811034689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Satya Pal Malik, the Janata Dal general secretary, has alleged that the electronic media is being misused in announcing election results. In a statement issued in new Delhi, he said the announcement of election results of opposition candidates was being delayed with an ulterior motive.

AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan special correspondents say that both the organizations have been reporting election results with utmost speed, accuracy, and impartiality. It is pointed out that the very first result, which was announced by both the electronic media, was that of the Janata Dal leader, Prof Madhu Dandavate. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the coverage and speedy dissemination of authentic information on the election results and the election-related coverages. The correspondents further add that both the media have been getting a number of calls from viewers and listeners appreciating the speedy and unbiased broadcast of election results.

1 Killed, 10 Injured in Powerful Blast in Punjab

BK2511162289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] In Punjab, a timely warning by a shopkeeper, Harkirat Singh, saved several lives from being lost in a powerful bomb explosion in a crowded marketplace in Batala this afternoon. He himself was, however, killed. Harkirat Singh noted something suspicious tied on a bicycle parked in front of his shop. He warned the people to move away, but could not do it himself. Ten others were injured in the incident. The governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has announced an ex-gratia payment of 1 lakh rupees for next of kin of Harkirat Singh.

Elsewhere in the state, the sarpanch [headman] of Mann village in Gurdaspur was gunned down by a terrorist. In another incident, an arrested terrorist was killed when a police party escorting him in Minsa area in Bhatinda District was ambushed by some terrorists.

Curfew Imposed in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh Areas

BK2511161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] In Gujarat, indefinite curfew was imposed in Broach town from 1700 this evening following some violent clashes between two groups of people. One person was killed in the incident. Police resorted to firing to disperse the mob, but nobody was injured. The situation is stated to be now under control.

In Andhra Pradesh, curfew has been clamped in Narasannapeta town of Guntur District from this evening till 0900 tomorrow. The district collector told our Vijaywada correspondent a short while ago that the curfew was clamped immediately after the completion of repolling in some polling stations in Narasannapeta town. One person was killed in a bomb throwing incident in this town this evening.

Ministry Denies Aiding Sri Lankan Tamil Militants

BK2311144789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] The government today denied reports appearing in a section of the press that the peacekeeping force [PKF] is supporting the alleged attacks on the Sri Lankan security forces by Tamil militants at Kalmunai in Amparai District. A press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs said that the PKF is in no way involved in aiding the alleged militants in the area. The release described the reports as entirely baseless and malicious.

Iran

Leaders Mark Anniversay of Basij Formation

President Addresses Basij Forces

LD2711131289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Excerpt] On the anniversary of the formation of the 20 million-strong Mobilization of the Oppressed [basij-e mostazafin] force, 80 of the disabled from Tehran Province's educational complex who were admitted to the country's universities this year, and a number of basij commanders and members from Martyr Beheshti and Ashura garrisons met Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, today.

In this meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the basijis and the disabled as Islamic role-models and praised their remarkable role in the course of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war. Remarking on the need to recognize the genuine character of the disabled, the president graciously said:

Although the dear war-disabled have physical disabilities, nevertheless they can reach the rank of gnostics through their self-sacrificing spirit. They should constantly endeavor to maintain their spirit of closeness to God, which is something of which others are deprived. It may have been their gnostic spirit which induced them to choose such destiny.

The head of the High Council of Cultural Revolution [Hashemi-Rafsanjani], said that even the entire resources of the country would not be sufficient to compensate the efforts of the basijis and the disabled. He said: The government, Majlis, and all other organizations have chosen special privileges—within the country's power—for the basij forces who are the revolution's most sincere forces. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the planned facilities for the combatant and disabled's entrance into the universities and the formation of pre-university classes, as among the most important of those privileges. He added: In this way we hope to include these lofty forces of the Islamic revolution in various sectors in the country's management.

The president referred to the formation of combatants' cooperatives and the need for the active participation of the basij and fighting forces in the era of reconstruction. He said: The intrepid basijis should, in the very spirit which they displayed in the course of the 8 years of holy defense, enter in the country's field of reconstruction and carry out their constructive role in the arena of work and production. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Addresses Veterans

LD2711133189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Excerpts] On the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's decree to form a 20-million strong army and on the first day of Basij [mobilization] Week, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in a meeting with a group of outstanding Basij fighters from throughout the country, described the main duty of all the strata of the people, especially the basij fighters, is to defend divine values and the independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the meeting which was attended by a number of outstanding basij fighters from throughout the country and by the Basij Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, stressed: Every single day on which you basijis were present at the fronts was the foundation for a lifetime of history for this nation. He said: Know that if you and others like you had not been in the trenches for those thousands of days, there would be no sign today in this land of Islam and the

Islamic Republic and of the name and memory of his eminence the imam, may his dust be sanctified.

Referring to some simple-minded people with superficial outlooks who imagine that nothing was achieved on the fronts, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces said: You basijis must know that everything you did and every bullet you fired at the enemy and every night you endured until morning was for the protection and preservation of this system, and has, God willing, had a constructive effect on the attainment of its goals and ideals. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere in his remarks, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: The Islamic revolution is like a permanent volcano; the revolution continues to be in ferment to the point that Islam and the Koran are alive, enemies are made to tremble, and friends rejoice and are given the strength to endure and stand fast. Concluding his remarks, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces described the responsibility of the basijis as very important. He said that experienced basijis are a powerful arm for the organization and formation of the 20-million strong army of the IRGC. [passage omitted

Reza'i on Importance of Basij

LD2711134489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] On the first day of Basij Week, Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] spoke about the role of the basij in the country's reconstruction, as well as increasing the level of the country's defense preparedness. Our correspondent Hababi draws your attention to that report:

[Hababi] On the eve of the anniversary of the issuance of the decree to form the basij [mobilization of the oppressed], Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the IRGC, in an exclusive interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Repubic of Iran [IRI], elaborated on the basij force's popular participation aimed at increasing the country's defense preparedness and capability. He reaffirmed that the IRI, in order to defend itself by following the guidance of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his remains be sanctified—relies on the three units of the popular basij, the merger of the defensive capability with the Islamic world, and military organizations comprised of traditional forces such as the Army and the special popular forces such as the IRGC [as heard]. He said: These three forces constitute the effective military power of the country.

The commander of the IRGC, remarking on the role of the basij in the course of the 8 years of sacred defense, said: This very defensive power in the Persian Gulf, Lebanon, and Palestine has brought the United States to its knees. Mr Mohsen Reza'i reiterated: To attain political and economic independence, it is necessary to rely on the guaranteed defense which is the basij force, a force which completes the country's defensive power. If the basij force is removed from the defense system, then the country's defense would become seriously impaired. Our nation intends to complete its military capability by relying on the basij power.

Regarding the role of the basij in the comprehensive reconstruction of the country, the IRGC commander said:

[Begin Reza'i recording] If we interpret the concept of reconstruction the same way as the beloved leader of the revolution and the great founder of the revolution in the first decade of the revolution, the basij enjoys a highly significant and special postion. However, if we interpret reconstruction as the repair of buildings damaged by shelling, then the basij does not play a very constructive role in reconstruction. In fact, if we regard reconstruction as the reconstruction of the country's political, economic, and social structure, then our basij forces would be the sole architects and workers of this reconstruction, because whoever constructs the political and economic structure of a nation, does so with his own spiritual willingness.

Regarding the level of reconstruction in our country, if plans are made to include the basij forces, then undoubtedly, our country's socioeconomic edifices, organizations, and foundations will become Islamic and reconstructed [as heard]. Moreover, experience has proven that the country's basij and Hezbollahi forces are not only the real workers in the construction of the system qualitatively, but also quantitatively, in the progress made by economical and political structures. They are devoted and committed forces who devote their life, day and night to the nation and country. God willing, they will progress even further. We think that the basij forces with their spiritual and cultural attitude, will easily play a key role in the reconstruction of the country, God willing. For this reason, the Guards Corps has accepted some duties from the government, whether in war regions or other regions, and God willing, all our basij forces will follow the commands of the beloved leader of the revolution with regard to the country's reconstruction. [end recording]

Karrubi on Strengthening Basij

LD2711141289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The Majles held a session today. Our correspondent reports on that session:

[Correspondent] In today's open session of the Majles chaired by Mr Karrubi, the Majles speaker [Karrubi] praised the devotion and the self-sacrifice of the basijis, who are prepared to risk their lives. He stressed the continuation of education, strengthening of the resistance bases, and the resolution of the basijis' problems. He pointed to the historical message of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, for the formation of the 20 million army, which was issued in the revolution's sensitive times, and recalled the formation of the basij [mobilization of the oppressed] in the destiny of the war.

and added: In the present particularly sensitive situation, serious attention should be paid to the strengthening of the basij. As the leader of the revolution has stressed in his message, the brave basijis should be prepared and vigilant for the implementation of the holy defense to protect the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Karrubi referred to the fact that the global arrogance's conspiracies against the Islamic revolution are still continuing and that the 'Aflaqi system [Iraqi regime] is being obstinate and vindictive about the 1975 Algeria accord, and said: We know these remarks of the Iraqi 'Aflaqi regime are the remarks of the global infidel, the U.S. great Satan and the region's reactionaries. We will not retreat, however, from the 1975 Algeria accord, no matter what cost.

At the end of his remarks, the speaker of the Majles mentioned the point that there should be a difference between the people who have gone to the fronts and have sacrificed their lives for the revolution, and others. he said going to the fronts in itself should be considered as valuable, adding: In universities, higher education centers, economic centers, and in all sectors priority should be given to the people who have gone voluntarily to the fronts because the victory and the success of the system is a result of those forces' self-sacrifices. Their self-sacrifice should be considered valuable to us. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Navy Personnel

LD2711210689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] On the eve of 7 Azar [28 November] Navy Day, a group of Navy commanders and personnel, accompanied by Navy Commander Commodore Shamkhani, met with President Hasehmi-Rafsanjani this morning.

During the meeting, Commodore Shamkhani submitted a report on the Navy's performance during the holy defense period [Gulf war]. He praised the crew of the frigate "Paykan" who, together with the rest of Navy personnel, brought about the destruction of the Iraqi Navy on 7 Azar 1359 [28 November 1980].

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the appointment of Commodore Shamkhani as Navy commander as one of the wisest actions by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution. He said: This appointment was based on the commander in chief's knowledge of the Armed Forces' situation. This initiative and coordination and utilization of the facilities of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps will be extremely effective and fruitful. Judging by my knowledge of the Armed Forces, if we utilize this effective and appropriate initiative correctly and promptly, the Navy will have an extremely effective force in the not so distant future.

The president described the appointment of a Guards Corps member as Navy commander as an extremely effective catalyst in coordinating the Navy and the Guards Corps Navy, exchanging experience and information, and utilizing the technical and support facilities of the two forces. He added: Based on what we know about Mr Shamkhani, we foresee that he will bring about an efficient combined naval force in the Persian Gulf through a great deal of hardwork and through coordinating these forces.

Referring to the fact that one of his most important executive tasks is to speedily strengthen the Navy, he said: The Persian Gulf is an extremely important area in past and future events. For that reason, extensive plans are underway to fortify, unify, and increase the efficiency of that force. He added: Fortunately, we have obtained certain means which increase the range of the Navy's facilities and open a new dimension in that force which did not exist before.

He said: Throughout the war, as expected, relative security was maintained in the Persian Gulf for the passage of convoys carrying oil and essential goods, and even for fishing. Most of the facilities in the Persian Gulf were safeguarded, thanks to our efforts. He added: Thanks for the utilization of the vast Navy resources, particularly for a training point of view, and also the formation of the marines which the Guards Corps has organized. The Navy will enter a new phase which is unprecedented in the world.

Stressing the importance of the Navy's main task safeguarding and maintaining security in the Persian Gulf, and addressing the personnel of the force, he said: You have proved you can and want to defend the interests of the country. God willing, you will have the upper hand in the Persian Gulf in the future. Your mission in that sensitive region is to maintain its security, which you must carry out most authoritatively.

He continued: The important strategic points in the Persian Gulf are under your control. This same geographic advantage, coupled with your facilities and initiative, will guarantee stability and security in the Persian Gulf and prevent enemy mischief in the area.

Referring to the role of the clergy in Islamic teaching he described the use of political-ideological personnel as one of the most serious requirements of the Navy. He said: If you arm yourselves with faith in God and ideological-ethical teachings, the range of your activities will be many when you are engaged in clashes and self-sacrifice.

Finally, he praised the Navy martyrs, particularly the martyrs of the frigate "Peykan", for their courage and bravery. He said: Never forget the martyrs and those missing in action. Receive their families among you with respect and honor.

Mobilization Forces Hold 'Urban Operations'

LD2711205289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] On the 3d day of Basij [mobilization] Week, the day of training and organization, nearly 600,000 basij forces in groups and cells of resistance throughout the country began "Khandagh" [moat] urban operations early today.

According to the Central News Unit, the operations were carried out in our country's towns for the purpose of maintaining solidarity and demonstrating the strength and preparedness of the basij forces in confronting the threats of the agents of arrogance at sensitive junctures of the revolution. The basij forces carried out inspection and (?search) operations, and stationed themselves in sensitive locations and main thoroughfares with foot and vehicle patrols, maintaining watch on important urban centers thus demonstrating their preparedness.

The report states: The large-scale "Khandagh" operations were also held in Tehran, with the extensive presence of the selfless basij forces of the I Sarallah Corps at various locations in the city.

2 Dailies Call for Armed Forces 'Readiness'

LD2211112189 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Two Persian dailies Wednesday in their editorials emphasised importance of readiness of the Armed Forces and improvement of their combat abilities and capabilities.

Through employing the latest in science and technology and improving technical skills and knowledge, the Muslim forces of Iran can increase their capabilities, said 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI'.

Achievement of such a capability will disappoint the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran from carrying out any mischievous acts, stressed the editorial.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI added that readiness of the Muslim forces to protect the rights of the nation and the Islamic Republic, will work as a deterring factor in keeping away the enemies of the nation and will prevent them from repeating their erroneous experiences of the past.

Meanwhile, the other morning daily 'ABRAR' stressed importance of faith and high morale in Armed Forces and said that readiness of Iran's 20-million strong popular army is the most effective weapon to ward off threats of arrogant powers.

Such a readiness would dishearten the arrogant powers, said the morning daily. Circumstances of the present world demands power and readiness, it concluded.

KAYHAN Cites Leaders on Defense, Cooperation

LD2711162189 Tehran IRNA in English 1118 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial Saturday commented on the recent statements by the Islamic Republic's leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on defence and cooperation stating their remarks were not contradictory. It said "defending peace and being prepared for war is the Republic's fundamental aim."

Ayatollah Khamene'i on Monday declared the country would continue to maintain its combat readiness as long as it is threatened by the ambitious and subservient rulership in neighbouring Iraq.

Unsurprisingly on Wednesday the president addressing an international conference in Tehran called for "understanding, friendship and cooperation" between regional governments and peoples to make the Persian Gulf region a better place to live in. This confirms "Tehran's policy of working for peace while being prepared for war," said the English daily.

"Should it be otherwise, not only will the Islamic state's policy goals come under question but the political and economic survival of most littoral Arab states will be threatened by a despot like Iraq's Saddam Husayn," it added.

Stressing that inviting foreign powers to solve the problems of the Persian Gulf proved to be a failure during eight years of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, it said, "Iran's invitation to render the waterway free of big power interference should be taken seriously by the littoral states."

The editorial added "healthy and mutually beneficial relations with the world community of nations is a good thing in stark contrast with military and provocative presence of distant states hostile to Islam and Muslims."

Believing that "violence and war between Muslim countries will only benefit those who seek to dominate and humiliate the Islamic world," it set assured "our Arab neighbours will find it in their interest to read carefully in between the statements coming out of Tehran and Baghdad."

"Much has been lost over the years for Iraq's Arab allies not to realize the value of healthy inter-regional ties in all spheres."

The daily concluded "Defence is the right of every sovereign state and Iran will continue to exercise it. The invitation to friendship and cooperation is also open. Who will gain and who will lose from Iran's latest call is not much of a secret."

Besharati Comments on International Situation

LD2711215789 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—The Islamic revolution has proved that is is possible to defeat imperialism without relying on communism, the first deputy foreign minister said on Monday. 'The ideology of the Islamic revolution and its role in pushing the philosophy of Communism into a deadend, accounts for the recent developments in the socialist camp,' 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said.

At the weekly political analysis session at Tehran University's social sciences college, he remarked that developments over the past decade indicate that the world's future set up would include the U.S., Russia, Europe, the Pacific region, and the Islamic ummah with the Islamic Republic at its centre. He termed as 'test of the Islamic revolution by global arrogance' the eight year-old sacred defence against the Ba'thist invader.

The Iraqi regime, he said, has no answer for its failure to achieve its ominous goals of gaining control of the Arvand River, partitioning Khuzestan and defeating the Islamic revolution.

As to why the Iranian people no longer chant 'Death to the Soviet Union', Besharati said 'people greatly resented the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, in addition to Soviet support for the Iraqi regime.'

'But Moscow has since adopted a seemingly positive stance and is willing to coexist with the Islamic Republic peacefully,' he thought.

However, Besharati noted that U.S. enmity with Iran is 'inherent, and the Islamic Republic will regard America as hostile to the last.'

On Tehran's ties with Persian Gulf states, the deputy foreign their cases differed. [sentence as received]

'The regime ruling Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] which cold-bloodedly massacred over 400 pilgrims (July 31, 1987), and murdered a further 16 (Kuwaiti pilgrims this year), has shown its total suservience to Washington, and therefore its account is different from that of others,' Besharati made it clear.

Turning to Lebanon, he said the only solution to that country's 'catastrophic' flight is the 'just distribution of power' and not the present unequal system which has put power into the hands of the Christian minority at the expense of the Muslim majority.

Besharati, then took up the issue of the U.N. sponsored talks with Ba'thist Baghdad, and said 'the regime in Iraq is unwilling to see Resolution 598 implemented, because of the heavy losses it suffered during its aggression and because it wants to justify its acts and blackmail Persian Gulf Arab states.'

Since the U.S. was unable to force the Islamic Republic to bow to its dictates by way of the imposed war, it now wants to attain this sinsiter goal through the peace negotiations, he said.

The deputy foreign minister was not optimistic of the success of the next round of face-to-face U.N.-mediated talks with the Iraqis, -in mid December- in view of the present status quo.

Editorial Urges 'Open-Minded' Foreign Policy

NC2411101589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "New Horizon in Iran's Foreign Policy"]

[Text] When addressing the Friday prayer congregation at the end of this last week, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that people may imagine that with the breaking of relations with some countries the nation can survive. But he also pointed out that strong relationships to the world outside can be used to express forcefully and to better explain the ideals of the Islamic Revolution to the people of the world. What the president said can be a very useful pointer to the foreign policy track for the nation in the years ahead.

What in fact President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was saying was that this nation should adopt a foreign policy that while being an active one and one that will increase the prestige of our nation as a truly Islamic and revolutionary one, it will also be a realistic policy that is able to reflect and react to the nuances of international politics and global thinking.

A diplomatic course to develop should follow a line consistent with our development and by stages leave well behind its testily incipient phase when we were only seeking to find our way. The Iranian nation is now experienced enough and mature enough to follow well charted courses, keep our cherished values in mind and make progress towards wider horizons making a way to our goals.

The first decade of our revolution was rightly devoted to a staunch defense of our national and ideological interests. Now it is necessary for us to expand further outwards in accordance with our ultimate economic, political and ideological goals using all valuable experiences and having learnt from whatever weaknesses there may have been in the courses hitherto followed.

To be gainful, productive, active and in the larger national interests our diplomatic relationships with the world shoud be open-minded and not be confined to a merely sloganeering approach which eventually can only be harmful and hold us back on this road.

A foreign policy to be productive should have a visionary quality while always remembering to protest our cherished values and national interests. In order to gain wider acceptance, people should be shown the new way and the deeper implications of such a line in the country's diplomatic course explained to them inconvincing ways. Not to do this will be to hold the nation back from its onward progressive goals.

Majles Session Discusses U.S. "Aggression"

PM2211125089 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Nov 89 p 2

[Report on open session of the Majles on 1 November 1989]

[Text] The open session of the Majles was held this morning headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi.

The first pre-agenda speaker at today's session was 'Ali Movahedi Savoji, deputy for Saveh, who commented on the anniversary of the Imam's banishment and conveyed his greetings on the anniversary of student day and the anniversary of the takeover of the den of spies. He said: Ever since the beginning of the revolution our Muslim and revolutionary people have maintained their defensive position in the face of Islam's enemies, especially the world aggressors headed by the United States.

Contrary to what they would have the world believe about the Islamic Republic of Iran—that Iran is aggressive and wants to interfere in the affairs of other nations—the Muslim people of Iran and the leaders of their revolution have never been—and will never be—fanatic hardliners.

The deputy for Saveh added: The Iranian people were under the cultural, political, economic, and military domination of the United States for decades. With the success of the revolution and the fall of the U.S. lackey, the Iranian people discovered that the United States would still not leave them alone. They discovered that the world-engulfing United States had turned its embassy in Iran into a den of spies to conspire and spy against the Islamic Republic. So to defend its revolution and its territorial integrity it rose against this conspiracy and captured this den, securing many valueable documents. When these were published throughout the world they proved that the Muslim people of Iran acted in self-defense.

Today, the plan which the Majles has agreed to vote on and which, God willing, will be approved today, in effect gives the Muslim people of Iran and their Majles the right to defend their citizens against any aggression anywhere in the world. In effect it is a move against he inhuman action of the United States and its interference in the affairs of other nations.

Jahanshah Danesh, deputy for Masjed Soleyman, was the second pre- agenda speaker at today's session. He commented on the fact that recent U.S. acts of terrorism had exceded the bounds of humanity. He also thanked the leader for choosing Commodore Shamkhani as commander of the Navy. He asked the president to issue instructions to relieve the poverty in Masjed Soleyman. He added: If Masjed Soleyman can emerge from its present deadlock it can become an industrial town with reserves of gas and oil. By building several dams on the river Karun it can play an important role in the country's economic growth.

Danesh then asked the minister of the reconstruction crusade to do something about bringing piped water to 24 villages in the district of Andaka. He also asked the minister of housing and urban developed to implement the plans to prepare the barren land in Masjed Soleyman for construction work.

The deputy for Masjed Soleyman then talked about the situation at the Khuzestan governor general's office and said: There is a general atmosphere of pessimism in the bureaucracy, reconstruction is slow, and work is at the lowest possible level. Permanent staff at the governor's office have been fired and their salaries cut for no reason at all. Experienced contract employees have been sacked, only to be replaced by difficult people who lack experience and are allowed to behave improperly. The lack of professionalism and shortage of permanent staff at the governor general's office are two of the issues that must be looked into.

He then asked the minister of interior to look into the issues of Khuzestan province. He asked the president to travel to Khuzestan to issue clear instructions with regard to the poor and war-torn areas of the province. He asked the minister of health and health education to look into health conditions in general and especially the conditions at 22 Bahman hospital. In conclusion Danesh asked the managers of the industrial construction company to get the Masjed Soleyman cement factory working. He asked the minister of energy to prepare the groundwork for the establishment of the fourth dam of (Karun Godar Lander) near Masjed Soleyman.

Hoseyn Mozafari-Nejad, deputy for Tehran, was the third pre-agenda speaker at today's Majles session. First, he commented on the holy day of 4 November and said: On this day, with the capture of the den of corruption and with the capture and humiliation of American mercenaries, the people of Iran and the oppressed of the world found their power, and the fact was revealed that U.S. hostility against the Islamic revolution endures and will not change.

The deputy for Tehran then thanked the leadership for choosing Commodore Shamkhani as head of the Navy and said: The government should take this as an example for other matters. It should trust those who are sympathetic and those who have grown up in the blood of the revolution, those who have engaged in resistance against the United States. They should know that the United States will be waiting for the day when the ministries and organizations have been emptied of those who have given martyrs, those who lost loved ones in the war, and those who have gained experience in the revolution.

Hoseyn Mozafari-Nejad then talked about the issue of establishing ties with the United States and said: In the world of American Islam, the United States has suddenly acquired a saintly appearance and they are hastily suggesting that this is the golden opportunity to establish ties with Satan. They even issue decrees from the source of legislation that if such relations are useful for the country, they should be considered a religious duty.

What sane mind would endorse a relationship between a lamb and a wolf? Who would even take the first step toward the wolf? Then there are those others who bravely suggest that we should have ties with the Al Sa'ud, who see things in accordance with American Islam, who have perhaps studied there. This, at a time when 16 of our brothers—the Kuwaiti pilgrims—have been beheaded there. Who will have an answer for the families of those 16?

The deputy for Tehran talked about sports and said: There is no doubt that good clean sports will only be possible with the help of clean and dedicated teachers. It is also obvious that sports provide a healthy spirit for society. However, we hope that the radio and television management changes the designated date of sports day to some time after 4 November. They should focus their planned propaganda on 4 November, which is the day for the struggle against world aggression headed by the world-engulfing United States.

The Tehran deputy then urged young people not to forget the slogan "Death to America" while engaged in sporting activity. He added: I want to ask radio and television to report on the Majles laws accurately. The Majles bill has designated 4 November as the national day for the struggle against world aggression headed by the world-engulfing United States. The emphasis is especially on the last part of the name.

I also wish to remind Majles deputies that, after the leadership, the Majles is the highest authority and it is other people who must obey the Majles.

He concluded by mentioning economic growth, saying: It must be observed that there should be motivation for those people involved in various ways in areas of production. There must be primary motivation for producers, farmers, and industrialists; otherwise working for a foreman will never result in basic changes in the area of production. The most important step in this field is the Labor Law, which has been rejected by the Council of Guardians for the second time. We wish to ask the Expediency Council to look into this matter urgently so that this country's workers, who have made such an effort during the war and the revolution under the most severe conditions, both on the war fronts and behind the fronts, can achieve their Islamic and human rights.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Qanbar Kabiri, the deputy for Marvdasht, who began by greeting the Majles on the occasion of 4 November, the anniversary of the takeover of the den of spies. He said: as we approach the national day of struggle against aggression and the Great Satan, the United States, it is proper for all the revolutionary children of the Imam and all the oppressed to once again pledge their allegiance to the continuation of the Imam's line, since the great leader was the vanguard of the struggle of right against wrong. They must continue their perpetual fight against the criminal United States under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i. They must disappoint those who expect ties with the United States and even speak of religious duties.

Under the country's present conditions, I feel it is proper to mention a few points:

1. The United States and its servants, such as the Al Sa'ud should know that the al-Taif conference will not solve their problems. The struggle of the nationalist and Muslim Lebanese to overthrow the current system of government and Maronite rule will continue. Our people will support the oppressed people of Lebanon in their struggle with all their might.

2. The officials in charge of Iran's foreign policy must not allow countries such as the United States or Saudi Arabia to take the initiative in the Middle East. They must enter the arena and be the decisive power.

3. The struggle against world aggression and the criminal United States must not be limited to slogans or political actions. Alongside political actions, we must use all our might to achieve cultural and economic independence.

The deputy for Marvdasht then commented on the punishment of those who hoard goods and the implementation of article 49 of the Constitution. He concluded by asking the government to regard Fars province as a production and an agricultural center in its 5-year plan and to put the Fars railroad system on its agenda.

The deputy for Marvdasht then criticized the radio and televison for not paying enough attention to 4 November, the national day of struggle against the world aggressors. He said he hoped that in the few days remaining before 4 November the radio and television would make up for this.

After these pre-agenda speeches by several of the deputies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Majles gave a speech about the anniversary of the imam's banishment, the national day of struggle against the world aggressors headed by the United States, an the just stance of the Islamic Republic in the face of plots hatched by U.S. imperialism. He listed the reasons why 4 November must be regarded as the national day of struggle against the world aggression headed by the world-engulfing United States and the manner in which the Imam was banished on such a day. He quoted from a letter written by an American leader to a friend, saying: We have been quite worried these past few days, but finally we managed to banish the old man—meaning the imam—to Turkey. He placed many obstacles in our path, but we managed to get rid of him for now.

The speaker of the Majles then talked about the manner in which the den of spies was captured by the students following the imam's line and the many documents that were found there that pointed to the many crimes of this Great Satan. He added: These Americans hatched dozens and hundreds of plots. They either toppled or terminated popular regimes or else created major problems for them. The documents that were found showed that the Americans could not even tolerate the the liberals and pro-Western elements with whom they themselves were dealing. Their communications indicate that they wanted to topple and destroy them as well. The United States wants control over a completely mercenary regime in Iran.

Although our forces have stood united against the Americans, there is one thing we must know, namely, that any softness toward them will make things worse and the Americans will become harsher. Documents indicate that the Americans wanted to destroy those who negotiated with them. We see that the Americans wanted to destroy those who said that it did not make sense to struggle against the United States.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi then listed the various plots hatched by the United States against Iran. These include the instigation of internal fighting in Iran, economic sanctions, the freezing of Iran's assets, the attack on Tabas, bringing troops into the Persian Gulf and imposing a war on Iran, the propaganda war against the Islamic Republic, and the direct conflict with Iranian troops. He added: These are among the dozens of plots that the United States has hatched against Iran. But despite all this, the Islamic revolution has stood as firm as a pillar of rock. Our enemies should know that 4 November is the day of struggle against aggressors, a day to stand firm against the Americans. The policies of the Islamic Republic are the same as those that the Imam defined for our officials.

The officials that we have today are all eager to serve the people. They are all dedicated students of the late Imam and followers of the Imam. They are among the forces who stood behind the imam during the years of oppression. They continued the path of the Imam and did not allow this path to lose its supporters.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said: The respected leader Ayatollah Khamene'i has clearly outlined our position with regard to relations with the United Sttes. The president, the beloved person now the head of the executive, endured American jails for years and was whipped with American whips. He has also announced his position toward the United States many times.

The Judiciary has also issued a statement asserting its position with regard to ties with the United States. The Majles, regarded as the most important organization, which, after the leader, is the most important base for the people, has also announced its position many times.

The laws that the Majles has passed all point to this. One example of such laws occurred last year in connection with Salman Rushdie and the British cultural plot against the Islamic revolution. Another example was yesterday's emergency ruling whereby the Majles declared its position and showed that it is following the Imam's line. All officials, leaders, and revolutionary organizations are oriented in the direction which the imam first indicated for them.

The most disgraceful act occurred recently in the United States, which clearly gave permission to the American police force to arrest anyone they wish—anywhere in the world—as opponents of the United States, and to have their own Judiciary try them. In simple terms, once there was immunity for American personnel in Iran, and now this has been extended throughout the world. Then these people come and talk about human rights. (Cheers and shouts of "Death to America" from the Majles floor)

The Majles speaker continued: The 4 November is also the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Qazi Tabataba'i. He was a resistance fighter who was thrown in jail by U.S. elements and the shah's regime and was then banished. He followed the imam's line from the start and was engaged in resistance in Eastern Azarbayjan and Tabriz. Despite the fact that supporters of Mr Shari'at-Madari caused some problems for him, he resisted and in 1979 was martyred at the hands of the hypocritical group, Forqan [group of assassins who claimed responsibility for several political assassinations at the beginning of the revolution].

We once again wish to convey to his family our congratulations and at the same time sorrow on the occasion of this martyrdom.

The Majles session continued this morning with an urgent discussion of ways to counter the terrorist activity of the U.S. Government. Seyyed Mohammad Asqar-Zadeh, one of the authors of the proposal, explained it in some detail and said: The actions that the United States has recently undertaken in its foreign policy indicate its power and its bullying tactics when it comes to other nations of the world, as we have seen over the past decade.

Such actions include the attack by the aircraft carrier "Vincennes" on an Iranian passenger Airbus which resulted in the martyrdom of 290 people, the destruction of Iranian oil wells, and the attack against the "Iran Ajr" ship in the Persian Gulf. In this way the Americans have engaged in unofficial acts of terrorism and aggression, whereas now they want to make this sort of thing official. He added: The U.S. Congress recently passed a bill which is against the Islamic Republic. Yesterday we agreed to look urgently into a plan that will in effect be a countermeasure to this act of the Americans. This is something that the president also mentioned in his interview.

What the bill says is this: Wherever the interests of the Islamic Republic or the revolution are in danger, it would be within our right to seek retaliation.

Then 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani gave some further details about the bill and mentioned other plots hatched by the

United States against Iran. Then the bill was put to a general vote and was passed.

KEYHAN Comments on Relations With France

PM2411162889 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
21 Oct 89 pp 20, 18

[Editorial by Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri: "France, Another Experiment"]

[Text] The statements given by French officials with regard to the hunger strike staged by Anis Naqqash—who is in prison on a life sentence on charges of attempting to kill the former Iranian prime minister Bakhtiar, who himself was responsible for the deaths of many Iranians, have raised many questions. The VOA said in a news item that the French judicial authorities have confirmed Naqqash's weight loss and the fact that he has been transfered to a hospital. He has asked French officials to transfer to his prison five of his terrorist cohorts who are in other jails.

It is not just the issue itself that is full of questions and doubt, it is seeing the broken figure of Kurosh Fuladi who during his sentence in British jails suffered many physical and mental tortures at the hands of his British jailers and supporters of human rights. This example has destroyed any possible optimism with regard to the treatment of so-called fundamentalists at the hands of Westerners.

Of course this anger and hatred of Islam and the zest in trying to vent this anger on Muslim combatants is not unique to the British. The blows delivered by the Islamic revolution and the waves of pro-Islamic activity are not unique to one country or one region. Efforts by the world aggression to stop this new and powerful movement is something that since the revolution in Iran has cost world aggression a great deal of money. This is why attacks against this movement, either in the centers where it is formed, or else in other corners of the world, are considered to be strategic actions. This trend will only change if the aggressive powers can rest assured that the revolutionary movement has stopped its progress or else if there is a basic and fundamental change in the nature of the aggressive powers themselves.

On the other hand the undeniable truth is that power and influence are the two main points of leverage in these systems of government. This means that any analysis in this regard has to be in a direction that would weaken the other side. This is one of the tools used in the complex world of diplomacy today.

A look at the West's relationship with the Islamic Republic and their hostile confrontation toward the pure Islam of the Prophet, all point to a fear of change, not only in a particular region, but also on a wider scale. The fact that this danger signal exists in the West is itself a sign of power. The aim of the West is to remove any obstacles in the equation in order to force this movement into a downward slide.

Using all kinds of pressure and maintaining a "group" policy with regard to their relations with Iran, has continued to be an unsuccessful experience for those countries—which constantly try to threaten the atmosphere between Tehran and other nations. One of the most obvious things about these countries is their effort to carry out one-sided policies and their lack of respect for their own promises. This brings into question any thought of lasting contracts or freedom and equality in bilateral relations with these nations.

There is such a lack of honesty that it even covers the thin verneer of democracy. When this affects their own population and fools their own public opinion, it becomes more real and easier to deal with.

There are very few Western publications that have ever mentioned bilateral needs when they discuss the relations between their countries and Tehran—which have gone through many ups and downs. Despite the many bonus points that the Westerners have always given in such relations or despite their intense efforts to sustain such relations with Iran, they have always told their own people something false. They have always made their people believe that a desire to control Iran, and Iran's repeated requests, were the main reasons for bilateral ties. This degree of dishonesty of course becomes very serious when it is used in connection with foreign diplomacy.

The French have openly ignored all the promises they made with regard to Anis Naqqash. There is no doubt that they will do the same thing in the future as they have done in the past with regard to other issues. One look at the French press before the last general elections clearly indicates the conditions of the French president and the two parties with regard to paying back Iran's loan and the release of Anis Naqqash. Of course after the elections and the release of French hostages from Lebanon, Iran's just demands concerning getting her money back were easily forgotten. Anis Naqqash continued to be held by his French jailers who are no better than their English counterparts.

Perhaps if the two situations were compared in this way, Paris would not see the ball as being in Tehran's court. It is necessary to show the French mistakes to those who regard diplomacy in the same way. Then they might see how empty the French hands are when it comes to making certain decisions. Perhaps then the Elysee Palace would start to remember its forgotten promises.

Paper Calls for Review of Relations With Paris

NC2311220589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Nov 89 p 20

[Commentary by Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri: "France Is Responsible for the Fate of Anis Naqqash"]

[Text] The general situation of Anis Naqqash, the Muslim combatant who was sentenced to life imprisonment in France for attempting to assassinate Bakhtiar, continues to deteriorate. This is at a time when his death might have unfavorable consequences primarily for the French, as well as other Western countries. The hunger strike by Anis Naqqash is definitely not void of a message to the triangle of France, Iran, and the Lebanese and Palestinian combatants. Disregarding these factors wil! play a noteworthy part in Naqqash's fate and in the developments that will ensue.

With the policy of silence adopted by their statesmen and the relative news blackout by their mass media, the French are trying to play down this issue. Also, nothing noteworthy has been done by the appropriate Iranian officials so far either. Tehran and Paris are involved in the process of emerging from a period of cold relations and moving toward a state of balanced diplomacy. This is happening at a time when the French are trying to find a way into Iran's markets in view of Iran's reconstruction. Talks on the solution of the two countries' financial problems, which should have ended months ago, still continue. Apart from the "West's collective decision" to maintain relations with Iran, the French want to expand their relations with Iran as much as possible for economic reasons and because of regional developments. In view of all these, how much longer will the self-restraint of the Islamic Republic's higher echelons—who are more strongly attached to moral values than to diplomacy—continue if Paris insists on its stand on Anis Naqqash and on not carrying out its commitments? Recently, during our president's news conference, in answer to a question put to him by one of the correspondents on Iran's needs for American technology, his excellency pointed to the vastness and variety of the world market which can supply our country's economic needs in the best way possible. This definitely applies to France too. If Paris wants to maintain good relations between the two countries, it should also show the necessary sensitivity toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. The French Government's blatant aggression against the sanctity of the Muslims in that country is a warning to our foreign policy officials who are placing more trust than is necessary in the ruling socialists. In view of all these factors, any raising of the level of economic and political relations between Tehran and Paris should be within a special framework and part of a special policy. The Islamic Republic of Iran is easily capable, as was shown with the experience gained from the conditions of the imposed war, of making its relations with others contingent on the extent of respect shown to its rights. If this strategy is not pursued in Tehran-Paris relations, we should expect more incidents in the future which will speak of indifference toward and rebellion against Muslims.

But apart from this, the French should also answer to the peoples of Lebanon and Palestine. The Lebanese and Palestinian combatants are waiting to see what Paris will do. This may be a good opportunity for the ruling socialists to make up for their past mistakes. The Lebanese and Palestinian combatants will not allow Anis Naqqash's fate to be the same as that of an Irish combatant in a British prison. The French may think that the Islamic Republic faces certain limitations, which it does not. But entertaining such thoughts about the people of Lebanon and Palestine who are carefully following the developments concerning their people in the French prisons is in vain.

Editorial Considers Attack on Dutch Embassy

NC1711135689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Dutch Embassy Attack No Bar to Cordial Relations"]

[Text] It is too early to say who those persons were who attacked the Dutch Embassy last Thursday. It is also too early to find out the motives of these assailants. What we know is tht the security forces acted promptly and nabbed two suspects for questioning as was announced by the police on Sunday.

The Foreign Ministry also acted wisely while expressing regret on the unwanted event, a normal procedure in practice everywhere in the world.

The official reaction on the attack of the Dutch Embassy is a clear indication by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it will never allow things to go ahead only on the basis of sentiment or the whims of an individual or a group. But, it does not mean that the people have no right to protest against injustices or oppression by any other country.

It will not be out of place if we recall of what Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in one of his Friday prayers said. The leader of the Islamic Republic told the worshippers that they have every right to protest against any country if they have a reason to do so but it should be just a protest and not an attack on any embassy or mission.

We hope that such a healthy policy will be continued by the revolutionary nation of Iran and they will not do anything which is against the sanctity of international norms.

In the meantime, we expect and appeal to the other governments where the Iranian missions are based that they will take the necessary precautions so that the Iranian embassies may not be harassed.

We single out here the Dutch Government where the Iranian Embassy had been a target of attacks of irresponsible and unsocial elements. In the past the Iranian diplomats were subject to physical torture by these unsocial elements and the property of the mission was damaged.

Iran, in no way will tolerate such unwanted and undiplomatic incidents as far as its embassy or diplomats are concerned and so will the ordinary citizens of this country.

In the end we hope that Thursday's incident will not have any adverse impact on the bilatral relations between the Netherlands and the Islamic Republic of Iran and they will continue on the basis of mutual respect and interest.

Commentary Condemns Trial of Muslim in Sweden

NC2311233889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Nov 89 p 3

[Unattributed commentary: "European-Style Freedom of Speech"]

[Text] A Swedish court sentenced Ahmad Rami, head and announcer of Radio Islam, to 6 months in prison on Tuesday on charges of having made remarks against Judaism.

This court accused him of 18 instances of anti-Judaism in his radio programs, saying that such remarks insult the Jews.

This act by the Swedish judiciary came as no great surprise in view of the influence of Zionists on the ruling organs of many European countries, including Sweden. Nevertheless, the Salman Rushdie affair was only a few months ago and the ink of the reports on the affair is still wet, and consequently the move by the Swedish court may be described as Zionist-style pseudo-democratic impudence.

The Swedes, and the Europeans in general, must have a very short memory if they have forgotten how European statesmen and politicians bared their chests during the past few months in a bid to support Salman Rushdie and how the extensive propaganda in the West supported the abusive anti-Muslim book "The Satanic Verses," the publication of which was, in their opinion, a matter of democracy and freedom of speech and thought.

It is very interesting to see how the glorious democracy of the West allows a British citizen to write things against the 1.5 billion Muslims in the world and to ridicule their religion, while an anti-Zionist stand by someone else is considered to be a crime.

When all the Muslims of the world, in Islamic countries as well as in European countries, demonstrated against this book and its perverted author who had insulted the Muslims, the West proudly voiced support for Salman Rushdie in a manner reminiscent of medieval fanaticism. But when it comes to Zionists, any utterance against them is considered to be a breach of freedom and requires trial and punishment.

Really, how do the Europeans justify all their impudence and malice?

Transport Minister Holds Talks With Soviet

LD2211123489 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22. IRNA—Supply of equipment and parts needed in Iranian ports and railways were reviewed in a meeting of the visiting Soviet deputy machine building minister, Arutyunov, with Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya here Wednesday.

The two sides also discussed issues related to transportation between the two countries.

Arutyunov, leading a delegation, arrived here last Thursday to finalise industrial and economic agreements reached between the two countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mottaki Visits USSR

For coverage of the visit to the USSR by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister M. Mottaki, including his talks with USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, see the 27 November Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Letter of Understanding Signed With SFRY

LD2011094889 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—A letter of understanding was inked between Iran and Yugoslavia at the end of the 8th session of Irano-Yugoslav Economic Commission here Sunday [19 November] night.

The document was signed by Iran's Minister of Economic and financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Yugoslav Minister of Energy and Industry Stevan Santo, co-chairman of the Joint Commission. Santo and his entourage left here Monday morning.

Both ministers at the end of the final session described their week-long talks as "constructive and fruitful." They also predicted a bright prospect for bilateral cooperations and called for further expansion of economic ties.

With respect to Iran's first five-year development plan, Nurbakhsh said, "Yugoslavia can can play a significant role in the implementation of the development projects." He also called for further efforts to fully implement the agreements reached between Tehran and Belgrade.

Nurbakhsh expressed the hope that Iran's non-oil products would make a considerable portion of the overall bilateral trade.

The Joint Commission started work here last Tuesday in two subcommittees dealing with industrial, technical, trade, oil, banking and transportation cooperation.

The Yugoslav minister, during his stay here, also held talks with several Iranian officials on providing services for transport of goods by air, sea and land, boosting the volume of Iranian non-oil exports to Yugosalvia and cooperation in the fields of oil industry, fisheries and ship building.

Further on Memorandum

NC2011100989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] The eighth session of the joint Iranian-SFRY economic committee ended last night with the signing of a memorandum of understanding on economic cooperation. The memorandum of understanding was signed by Mr Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, and Mr Stevan Santo, SFRY federal secretary for industry and energy.

The Central News Unit reports that at the final meeting of the session, Mr Nurbakhsh described the talks as extremely constructive and useful and expressed the hope that the two sides can look forward to fruitful relations on the basis of the objectives outlined in the memorandum of understanding. He also said that the SFRY can play a part in implementing the projects outlined in the Islamic Republic's 5-year economic, social, and cultural development plan.

Mr Nurbakhsh called for greater efforts to achieve the full implementation of the agreements between the two countries. He expressed the hope that the export of Iranian nonpetroleum products will play a significant role in trade between the two countries.

Mr Stevan Santo, SFRY federal secretary for industry and energy, pointed to the fruitfulness of the Tehran talks in his remarks during the final meeting of the session, and said that he sees an extremely bright future for the cooperation between the two countries. He also called for the further expansion of economic relations.

Mr Santo met with several of our country's economic officials over the past few days to discuss issues concerning regulations in the two countries, the creation of air, sea, and land transportation services for trade, increasing the export of Iran's nonpetroleum products to the SFRY, the oil industry, fisheries, shipbuilding, and some other fields in which the two countries can cooperate. Mr Stevan Santo left Tehran this morning.

Japanese Envoy Interviewed on Commercial Ties

NC2411102989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 89 pp 1, 4

[Text] Tehran—The Japanese Ambassador to Iran said yesterday that the fresh Iranian move on the Security Council Resolution 598 is a 'positive gesture' and hoped all relevant issues will be settled 'as soon as possible'.

Ambassador Kunihiko Saito in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said the recent move by Iran for the implementation of the Resolution 598 is a positive gesture and Japan is interested in seeing the resolution implemented as soon as possible.

The Japanese ambassador was commenting on Iran's proposal made last week during the shuttle diplomacy of U.N. Special Envoy Jan Eliasson who completed his 16-day visit to Iran and Iraq last Friday.

Iran officially informed Eliasson that it is prepared for immediate and simultaneous repatriation of prisoners of war and troop withdrawals to internationally recognized boundaries.

Saito said Japan was a member of the Security Council when Resolution 598 was adopted in 1987 and from the very beginning "we were interested that the resolution should be implemented."

Saito arrived here in Tehran just four-and-a-half months ago and he says that he has settled down here comfortably. He had a lot of praise for Tehran and its people whom he says are "hospitable and intelligent."

The ambassador is optimistic about future relations between Iran and Japan after the 'friendly separation' between Japanese private companies and the National Petrochemical Company of Iran on the Iran-Japanese Petrochemical Complex in Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni.

Saito, 54, said that a group of private companies, and not the government of Japan, was a party to this project. He said, "My government wanted this issue sorted out as this was the main obstacle in the way of smooth relations between Tokyo and Tehran."

"We are happy that settlement was reached in October and I don't think any ill feelings were left on either side," Saito said.

Saito is a career diplomat and for the first time has been posted to the Middle East and is happy that this assignment is in Iran where, beside the people, the leaders are "refined and intellectual."

He has earlier served in England, Malaysia, Switzerland, France and Belgium. He has two sons and has worked as Director General of Treaties Bureau in the Foreign Ministry of his country before coming to Tehran.

Commenting further on bilateral ties Saito said, "Iran and Japan are friendly countries, and have a long history of mutual cooperation."

"And above all bilateral trade is mutually beneficial and provides for more areas of mutual ties," he said.

Saito said that Japan buys huge amounts of oil from Iran and exports various items of machinery to this country.

In 1988 Iran imported goods worth $808 million from Japan while its exports to Japan stood at $1.165 billion. The same figures during the current year until September record that Iran's imports to Japan totalled $664 million and exports to Japan were $1.312 billion, which represents a significant increase over last year [as published].

"As this stage when Iran is busy in its reconstruction plan after the eight-year war, I see there are better chances for closer cooperation between the two countries," the ambassador said.

"Of course our purchases from Iran are not confined to oil only," he said adding, "We are trying to bring more goods on to our list of imports from this country."

Saito singled out construction stones and said, "If the quality is good and the prices are competitive then these should find way into the markets of Japan." He said his government is encouraging the private sector of Japan to buy more non-oil goods from Iran.

"We can have better cooperation with Iran in the petrochemical and other industries," Saito said and pointed out that talks between the two countries have already been held in this direction.

He recalled that a technical cooperation delegation from his country arrived here in October to explore new avenues for reciprocal cooperation with Iran. He said that the delegation headed by Deputy Director General Hiroshi Shigeta of the Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Foreign Ministry also discussed issues concerning financial cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"This delegation was important as it came for the first time after acceptance of the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war last year in August," the Japanese ambassador said, adding that "the issue of financial cooperation will continue to be discussed by the two countries in future."

"I believe that technical cooperation is going on very well by the two countries," Saito said. He said Japan has already offered to accept 67 Iranian trainees to receive training in diversified areas such as agriculture, industry, electricity and computer training.

In the same way, he said, 10 Japanese experts will be dispatched to Iran to transfer technology in the field of energy. The Japanese experts will also provide technical assistance to Iran for the development of farming in the coastal areas of the Caspian Sea.

Saito said that the Japanese experts will also explore ways to provide a master plan for the new Tehran International Airport.

"I'm not in a position to comment," was the response of Saito when asked whether his country or others are mediating between Iran and the United States for the resumption of normal ties between Tehran and Washington as was reported by the Western media.

Talks With Libyan Official Begin 26 Nov

LD2711123389 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—The second Tehran-Tripoli jont economic-industrial commission opened here Sunday with Iran's Minister of Heavy Industries Hadi Nezhad-Hoseyniyan and Libyan Minister of Strategic Industries Fathi Bin-Shutwan in attendance.

Nezhad-Hoseyniyan, noting the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist views shared by the two countries, said the Islamic Republic and Libya should deepen their political ties through expansion of economic relations. He offered to set up a bus-assembly plant in Libya with an annual capacity of 500 buses, and called for removal of banking problems in the way of trade and commercial exports, as well as expansion of technical and industrial cooperation.

The Libyan official said the "Two countries' revolutions enjoy strong ties forming a powerful front against Zionism and imperialism."

"Economic relations would certainly strengthen the Tehran-Tripoli existing political ties," agreed Shutwan, and extended an invitation to the heavy industries minister to visit Libya.

The eco-industrial commissions also announced the agreement on establishment of a joint Iran-Libya investment company.

Shutwan arrived here this morning at the head of a 21-man delegation comprising Libyan officials in charge of industrial, cultural, and trade sectors.

Editorial Urges Regional Cooperation for Peace

NC2211105689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Regional Nations Should Contribute to Iran-Iraq Peace"]

[Text] U.N. Chief's Special Envoy Jan Eliasson who is shuttling between the Iranian and Iraqi capitals to revive the stalled peace talks was back in Tehran yesterday.

This is the third time he is visiting Iran's capital in this round of his Middle East tour. It seems he is hopefully taking the talks out of the bedlam and the rigmarole of unrelated discussions.

The fact that he has not yet given up hope and continues with his shuttle diplomacy may be taken as a token of the preparation of the mood and atmosphere in Baghdad and Tehran to get the negotiations off the ground.

Some observers here hold that Eliasson might have actually broken the deadlock of the talks already and a full implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 may be just around the corner.

Many political experts are quite convinced that given the foreign diplomatic strategy of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, the latter is bent on doing all it can to help the formation of a rapid mechanism for the execution of the articles of the peace resolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government is leaving no stone unturned to have a well thought-out five year plan to serve as a launching pad for the intended socio-economic and cultural development of the Iranian society. As such it is only natural that this government, as committed as it is to an integrated development plan, will lay solid stress on peace. Among the most celebrated slogans of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government is the rehabilitation of the economy. This cannot come true without a lasting peace.

As far as the Iranian president is concerned there cannot then be any shadow of doubt that he is going out of his way to see the talks succeed.

But the success of the negotiations does not wholly depend on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's sincere intention and desire for peace. It is a mutually beneficial venture which calls for as sincere a cooperation and contribution from the Iraqi side too. Everybody understands in their right mind that to soundly pursue and fulfil its reconstruction projects Iraq too has the same pressing need for peace and stability.

As such Iraqi intransigence cannot be long lived.

Amidst this situation though another issue should be stressed.

The peace and security is not the want of Iran and Iraq alone. Everybody needs it just the same to follow national plans of development. Naturally it is then binding on every government in this part of the world to come to the help of peace out of a genuine understanding of realities in the region. It is out of national security considerations that regional nations should join hands to take snags off the path of peace and make all the necessary coordinations with the United Nations and its Special Envoy Eliasson for the implementation of Resolution 598.

Editorial Says Iraq Undermining Resolution 598

NC2311223889 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Fate of Resolution 598!"]

[Text] The UN Secretary General's representative in the Iran-Iraq talks is in the last phase of his visit to Tehran. On the basis of reports, not only has no progress been made as far as the implementation of Resolution 598 is concerned, but the Iraqi regime continues to propound new pretexts to prevent peace. The Iraqi regime intends to upset Resolution 598 and to bargain for occupying Arvand River in exchange for withdrawing its forces from Iranian territory.

The international community, the Security Council, and the Persian Gulf regional countries have a direct responsibility for the nonimplementation of peace in this area.

For about 1 and ½ years now the United Nations has been unable to do anything to implement a peace resolution which it propounded itself. This is at a time when the policy of detente is progressing in most parts of the world and the United Nations has played a special role in these developments.

It is the duty of the secretary general to tell the world what the obstacles are that are preventing the implementation of the peace resolution, and not merely inform the world of the stands of both sides. Understanding can be created between two countries when both countries respect the principles of understanding. Otherwise, Mr Perez de Cuellar has to adopt more decisive measures to bring the current situation out of its stalemate.

The Security Council also has a special duty in relation to this. The question asked by world public opinion is: Why, after the declaration of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, has the Security Council not taken any steps to bring peace to the region, and why does it support the situation of "neither war nor peace" or the situation of "armed peace" in the region? Why is America, which once wanted to impose a military siege on Iran with its navy and to "impose" peace, today encouraging Iraq to prevent peace and calm in the region and prevent the implementation of Resolution 598? America needs the continuation of tensions between neighboring countries in the region to continue its political-military presence in the Persian Gulf, and the establishment of full security in the Persian Gulf will automatically place the powerful military presence of America in the region in question and decrease the motivation in the Persian Gulf littoral states to pay astronomic sums for arms purchases. After the declaration of the cease-fire, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE spent a considerable amount of their oil incomes on the purchase of arms, thereby maintaining their dependence on the West when they could have spent this immense sum on the economic and social development of their countries.

At a time when the Soviet Union has withdrawn its forces from Afghanistan and needs the withdrawal of America from the Persian Gulf, it is not clear why it does not strive for peace! Mr Gorbachev cannot find a solution to all his problems in Europe and ignore the reality in his own neighborhood. Moscow cannot make a transaction with America on solving regional problems. Unfortunately the Soviet Union's policy of "imitating the West" in regional problems continues to be seen, and this country has not been able to adopt independent stands as far as the implementation of the resolution is concerned.

Nor is it clear what the Persian Gulf littoral states, which need peace and security more than anyone else, are doing!

The recent stands by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council's ministers of information are extremely vague and precarious. In their stands they emphasized Iraq's historic rights over the Shatt al-'Arab, and they also stressed that new direct talks that take into consideration Iraq's rights in its territories and waters should be resumed! In their statement, without making any reference to the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory, they emphasized the need for a rapid exchange of prisoners of war.

Are these not precisely Iraq's stands? Are such stands to the benefit of peace and security in the region? Will the upsetting of international borders of countries and the creation of sovereignty rights for a country in the territory of another country lead to peace? The Persian Gulf littoral states have fallen into this trap, which was set for them by the United States and Iraq. The regional countries are threatening Persian Gulf security with their own hands and are practically preventing the implementation of Resolution 598. The weakening of Iran's position in the region is not to the benefit of the Persian Gulf littoral states and it will only lead to more demands and ambitions by Iraq and the United States.

After the declaration of the cease-fire, the Iraqi regime has prevented the implementation of the peace resolution. Iraq has done this by propounding various contradictory proposals and by its covert support of hegemonistic powers. This regime has even interfered in and determined the duties of the secretary general and the UN Secrtariat. In Mr Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council, parts of the resolution have been underlined and labeled as "mandatory articles." But Iraq has propounded a deviant plan in answer to every single report and plan by the UN secretary general. Iraq's final objective is to do away with the secretary general's role because he would act within the framework of Resolution 598 and Iraq wants to break this framework. Iraq wants to prolong the existing situation and thus gain a concession from Iran. It is only the alertness of the people and officials of the country and the strength of our Islamic system that can prevent the Iraqi Ba'thist parties' blackmail, God willing.

* Majles Deputies Discuss Unity, Education

90OI0034 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
23 Oct 89 p 5

[Text] Report on yesterday's open session of the Majles:

Legal and Majles Bureau—The Majles held its session presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, and continued later under Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat as the temporary speaker. In this session, after the recitation of some verses from the holy Koran, Messrs Alavi-Hoseyni, from the Gorgan constituency; Haj Naseri, representative of the people of Zanjan and Tarem-Olya; and Shafe'i, representative of Marand, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said some words, condemning the destruction of al-Aqsa Mosque by the regime occupying of the Holy Land.

After the Majles speaker's speech, the deputies' remarks to the executive officials were read, and then the Majles came to order.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was the presentation of the report of the first round of consultations by the Culture and Higher Education Commission about the bill on the conversion of the Printing and Publishing Institute of Tehran University to the Printing and Publishing Company affiliated with Tehran University. The second and last item on the agenda was the report of the Planning and Budget Commission with regard to the legal plan to correct subarticles D and V of Article 22 of the National Budget Law for the year 1368 [21 March 89-20 March 90].

The texts of the speeches by the pre-agenda speakers, the deputies' memos to the country's executive officials, and discussions of the proceedings are as follows:

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr 'Alavi-Hoseyni, the representative of the people of Gorgan. In his remarks, he referred to the celebrations of the committed people of Iran on the occasion of Unity Week, the birthday of the prophet (peace be upon him), the birthday of Holy Imam Ja'far Sadeq (peace be upon him), and their renewal of their covenant with the jurisprudent and the lord of Muslims. He also referred to neutralizing the conspiracies and treacherous plans of the enemies of Islam with guidance from God and with the united front of the nation. He said:

Unity Week was more significant and glorious this year; glorious because Shiites and Sunnis got together in a free atmosphere and without differences. This was contrary to what our enemies had expected to happen after the passing of our beloved imam. There has been such togetherness that, in the theological center of Al-Qola, Unity Week was celebrated by a gathering of over 1,000 members of the clergy, theological students, and people of all strata, Shiites and Sunnis, from the Al-Qola region. Also participating was brother Mottaki, the deputy foreign minister for international affairs. This was a unique gathering and others like this were held in towns and various parts of Gorgan, Gonbad-e Qabus, and Dasht-e Gorgan regions.

He added: The holding of these Unity Week ceremonies was important because the enemies of Islam and Muslims of the world, led by the world-mongering America and reactionaries, who have sold themselves out, try to create problems between the Shiites and the Sunnis with their dollars. In line with such conspiracies, certain cries can be heard coming from their wounded throats. Fortunately, in holding these Unity Week celebrations, a big blow was dealt to them and this honor was bestowed upon the Iranian people to be the advance force to unite the Muslims, while at the same time, sounding warning bells for other Muslim brothers.

In this connection, he pointed out: Let us not forget that solidarity does not mean we should compromise our principles; or, if we call on society and ourselves to unite, it does not mean that if we see a wrong or, God forbid, a treachery we should keep quiet. Not only must solidarity be maintained, but one also should act according to the instructions of the holy family of the prophet: "Your brother is the one who tells you your faults." I heard many times from our late imam that criticism must be constructive. Our present great leader also is a believer in this point. Therefore, in the path of serving the Islamic society, protecting the achievements of the revolution, and continuing on the path of our martyrs, all of us, regardless of our thoughts and ideas, must consider ourselves servants of the people and thus, hand in hand, solve the problems of the society. At the same time, we must act as each others eyes.

We can conclude, therefore, that if one makes an observation about the activities of a ministry, organization, or institution and warns them about a wrong doing or criticizes them, it does not constitute disunity. Actually, this in itself shows solidarity, which guarantees the health of the revolution and also helps its continuation. While declaring his support for the suggestion made by the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution regarding the formation of the Islamic Dar ol-Taqrib [the house of togetherness], he called this a step in the direction of solidarity and unity of the world's Muslims.

In another part of his speech, Mr 'Alavi pointed out: There is no doubt that every regime, in order to exist and continue its movement, needs independence in all aspects, in order to be able to free itself from dependence on colonial powers. He said: To achieve this independence a method must be adopted. The root of every kind of independence is in economy because an unhealthy economy results in the changing of the path of the system and, inevitably, it falls in the lap of colonialists. Therefore, we must take steps to improve the economy.

He pointed out: Fortunately, one of the most important programs adopted by the government of the respected president of the Islamic Republic is to pay heed to this principle. Such independence cannot be achieved unless we can implement accurate policies in the industrial and agricultural dimensions. We must take advantage of these two like wings for the flight of our country's economy, and a special significance must be assigned to these two aspects in the five-year plans.

As he pointed out that the Gorgan and Dasht-e Gorgan regions have been considered as agricultural poles, he mentioned the most important agricultural product of this region and said: Perhaps our dear deputy brothers are more or less aware of the profitable cotton product. Cotton is one of the most important agricultural products worldwide. Nearly 100 countries plant cotton. Fortunately, this product has a special place in Iran, and the region of Gorgan and Dasht is one of the most suitable areas for planting this strategic product. It is on this basis that this region is being referred to as the land of white gold. From a total of 196,000 hectares of agricultural land in Iran which were planted in cotton during 66-67 [21 March 87-20 March 89] 48.5 percent, nearly half, were in the Gorgan and Dasht regions. And of the 104 cotton processing plants across the country, 42 are in this region.

He then briefly talked about the history and past situation of cotton planting and indicated:

Planting cotton in the country not only fulfills domestic needs, but it is also a foreign exchange earner as an export item. In the past, cotton exports amounted to 25 percent of the non-oil exports of the country. Statistics show that during the period of 50-57 [21 March 70-20 March 77] the world cotton market was open to Iran. If we compare the price of some agricultural products according to the international market, we see that the value of one kg of cotton is equivalent to 12.2 kg wheat, or 7 kg rice, or 15.8 kg corn, or 6.7 kg soya, or 10.6 kg sugar.

He added: Although we have had a relative increase in the production from 59 [21 March 1980-20 March 81], a noticeable boost resulting in the growth and improvement of this product has not come about. He then mentioned the reasons for a decrease in the total land area under cotton planting as follows: 1. An increase in the price of agricultural products competing with cotton, i.e. soya, corn, rice, potatoes, and various vegetables. 2. An increase in the cost of cotton production, especially an increase in labor costs—as has been expected. 3. A lack of adequate security for investment in the agricultural sector, from planting to harvesting. 4. Scarcity and high price of technical agricultural equipment, spare parts, and the involvement of brokers. 5. Scarcity, high prices, and the failure to deliver on time agricultural products such as seeds, fertilizers, chemical sprays, and other such things. 6. A lack of adequate attention by the officials to the pricing system for cotton, such as this year's 256 rials that the respected Economic Council announced for planting cotton. This has been the cause for dissatisfaction among all cotton planters. We hope the respected president will act on a letter we sent him recently, and he will order an investigation which will be heart-warming for the farmers in our region.

In conclusion, Mr 'Alavi-Hoseyni notified the country's executive officials of certain matters related to his constituency.

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr Davud Haji Naseri, the representative of the people of Zanjan and Tarem-Olya in the Majles.

At the beginning of his speech, he paid respect to the holy spirit of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], and the valued martyrs of the revolution and the war. He also praised the exalted leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He then referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Mostafa Khomeyni and said: Martyr Mostafa Khomeyni was a scientific genius and a professor at the theological centers of Qom and Najaf. He was the future of Islam. In order to put off this shining light and to weaken the morale of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, lackeys of colonialism martyred him. However, because such individuals are equal in life as in death—and also the imam mentioned many times that Mostafa's death was a hidden blessing from God—his martyrdom became the driving force of the revolution and gave new life to the Islamic movement of the Iranian people. The Qom theological center was closed, and the piety of Islam did not allow this blood to go to waste. Cries of the believers rose and lead to 19 Dey [9 January], and the uprising took a new form; indeed, this was a hidden blessing from God.

In another part of his speech, the speaker pointed out that we are close to the anniversary of our late imam's exile to Turkey, the Students Day, and the capture of the den of American spies by the Muslim students following the imam's line, which was considered the second revolution—which was bigger than the first one—by our beloved late imam. The capture of the den of spies resulted in the humiliation of America, revelation of its anti-human nature, and recognition of American lackeys and individuals who were, in one way or another, loyal to America.

Our nation, our government, and the Majles will not forget the treacheries, the crimes, the conspiracies, and the economic, military, and arms embargoes, and the other moves by America against the Islamic revolution and the godly regime of Iran. As long as America maintains its imperialistic posture and continues with its crimes and aggressions around the world, we consider it the great Satan, the number one enemy of nations, and therefore continue with our animosity towards it.

He continued in his speech: I would like to give some reminders to the respected president and chief of the executive branch, so that he may give appropriate orders to investigate these cases: 1. In order to allow for scientific promotion of high school teachers with bachelors degrees, and to boost their morale and hope for a better future, certain masters and Ph.D. programs should be considered by the government. This should be similar to the program for teachers with high school and junior college degrees in order to improve their scientific, social, and administrative status. These courses enable elementary school teachers to teach in junior high schools, junior high school teachers to teach in senior high school. I believe we have experienced high school teachers who, after passing certain courses, will be able to teach in universities. This way we can, to a great extent, alleviate the shortage of academic and scientific cadre. This possibility must be provided for the educated, by the government of the Islamic Republic. 2. In order to support the future leaders, the managers, and the future experts of the country, certain issues related to the students' life must be addressed. They range from academic issues, welfare, nutrition, mental health, and also listening to their complains and suggestions. More attention must be paid to this center for knowledge and expertise which is also a base for the movement and struggle. This is the way to give hope to Muslim and revolutionary students, and thus disappoint and disarm the enemy. 3. The academic crusade, which carries the heavy burden of research and propaganda, is the root of innovation, invention, productivity, and also growth of Islam, and the keeper of the political culture must receive an adequate budget and funds. It must be supported and let us not forget that brothers and sisters of the academic crusades are the children of the revolution and intellectual protectors of the society. 4. Presently, the world is moving very fast with planning and utilization of research, practical training, laboratories, coordination of theoretical and practical work, and the absorption of students in accordance with the needs of the society. This point must receive more serious and practical attention. 5. Creation of a job market for the Muslim people, and especially for the youth, in agricultural production, agricultural industry, and the development of agricultural tools and resources in order to implement the strategic and crucial slogan "Production is equal to independence." This is in view of the fact that continuity of our political independence is the wager for our economic independence and growth in production.

6. Paying more attention to the lower income class by implementing logical, common, and scientific methods of Islamic economy, and adhering to Islamic justice in the distribution between the provinces, and a serious and continuous fight against inflation and high prices. m7. The dispatching of undercover investigators to inspect the provinces, towns, and counties in order to control and inspect the situation in the offices, factories, cooperatives, provincial offices, governors' offices and county offices in regard to their efficiency and handling of the people.

I know and believe that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, with God's kindness, the help of the people, and the cooperation of Majles, will be able to solve the problems.

In conclusion, Mr Haji Naseri requested that the cabinet members travel to his constituency, in order to find out about the people's shortcomings and to boost their morale.

The third and last pre-agenda speaker was Mr Karim Shafe'i, deputy from Marand. He welcomed the president, and in regard to his recent trip to Azarbayjan said: I find it necessary to give a short explanation about the situation in this province to the president, the government, and the respected Majles. Hopefully, it will be a cure for the pains of the people of this province and myself.

Today, in this holy place, I inform you that if something is not done about education, higher education, industry and industrial expansion, mining, agriculture, and health in this province, in the near future Azarbayjan will be one of the poorest provinces, despite the fact that it is rich in water, soil, mines, and extensive resources. Dear brothers, today 60 percent of the people of this province are illiterate. Educational offices have been abandoned. The scientific level has dropped. The percentage of school and university dropouts has risen drastically. Tabriz University, despite its historic past, is keeping busy with training students of humanities. There is no sign of scientific expertise, a Ph.D. curriculum, engineering, and medical schools. The training of skilled workers is at its lowest possible point. Technical colleges and hospitals lack adequate facilities and suitable laboratories. In the clinical area, due to a lack of planning, a lack of supervision, a shortage of hospital beds and clinics, the people are in real despair. A shortage of specialized doctors in the hospitals is rampant. Thousands of farmers have been waiting for years to see a single constructive plan implemented in their villages; there is no sign of improvement. Extending electrical and water services to a village takes several years. Credits are not remitted on time. Management is not capable of absorbing the funds and implementing effective administration. There is no adequate coordination in the province. During the various work seasons, the required tools are not provided. Tabriz has turned into a garbage dump, and there is no sign of sewer, parks, and terminals; in short, there is no sign of proper urban planning and development in this city. While our heavy industries and mechanized agriculture are concentrated in Central and Esfahan Provinces, there is no similar job-creating and productive plans in the mining sector in this province.

Your Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, today the people are waiting to see the positive results of your visit to this region in their political, social, cultural, and economic lives. The people are waiting to see a rise in the level of universities, the creation of jobs, saving agriculture from its present pitiful state, the creation of petrochemical plants, electricity, dams, and other such things. The people are waiting to see the effects of this visit in road-building and reconstruction. And, at last, the people are waiting to see the effects and to reap the benefits of this visit in improvement of management, growth, and more coordination between the province and the capital.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles was to review the report of the Culture and Higher Education Commission on the conversion of the Publishing and Printing Institute, affiliated with Tehran University. In this regard Messrs Aqa Mohammadi, Saleh Abadi, and Ala' spoke in opposition and Messrs Dr Sheybani, Hoseyni-Shahrudi, and Khalkhali spoke in agreement. After some comments by the commission reporter and the government representative, the generalities of the bill was put to vote but did not pass.

The Last Item on the Agenda

The second and the last item on the agenda was the discussion of the report by the Planning and Budget Commission in regard to the legal plan for correction of subarticles "D" and article 22 of the National Budget Law for the year 1368 [21 March 89-20 March 90]. After some explanations about this plan by the commission reporter, Messrs Pur Hoseyni, Ha'erizadeh, Montajab-Nya, Ala', and Chichiyan spoke in opposition and Messrs Harati, Ansari, and Akrami spoke in agreement. Due to the shortage of time, continuation of the investigation of the said plan was postponed until the next session. The next session will be held on Tuesday at 8:00 am.

The Deputies' Remarks to the Executive Officials of the Country

- Mr Mohaqqar, the deputy from Bojnurd: To the minister of education and training, expediting the completion of the central laboratory of the Education and Training Center of Bojnurd and resolving the problem of transfers of educators of this city; to the interior minister, conversion of the Bojnurd Governorate to a special governorate; to the minister of housing and urban development, expediting the construction of the Bojnurd hospital.
- Mr Tateli, the deputy from Marivan: to the Planning and Budget Organization, supervision of the activities of the Planning and Budget Organization of Kordestan Province.
- Mr Shafe'i, the deputy from Marand: to the chief of the judicial branch and the minister of justice, selection of the chief justice and filling the judicial personnel requirements for Jolfa; to the Sports Organization to fulfill the needs of Marand sports arena; to the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, expansion of communication lines in Zenud.
- Mr Esma'ili, the deputy from Hashtrud: to the minister of health, expediting the construction of Hashtrud hospital.
- Mr Panahandeh, the deputy from Barkhar and Meymeh: to the interior minister, restoring security in the Barkhar and Shahin-Shahr region.
- Mr Bahmani, the deputy from Ramhormoz: to the minister of health, expediting the activity of Ramhormoz hospital.
- Mr Qomi, the deputy from Varamin: to the minister of industries, preventing the dumping of waste materials from the Varamin sugar factory; to the minister of commerce, expediting the opening of the Varamin Trade Office; to the minister of defense, preventing the dumping of waste material from Parchin factories.
- Mr Taha'i, the deputy from Tonekabon and Ramsar: to the minister of petroleum, fulfilling the motor oil needs of Tonekabon and Ramsar farmers, building a government owned gas station in Tonekabon; to the minister of roads and transport and the Planning and Budget Organization, building a pedestrian bridge on Nesar and Jamshidabad bridges.
- Mr 'Abdollahi, the deputy from Mahneshan: to the minister of roads and transport, expediting the paving of the Zanjan-Dandami road, considering the approaching of winter; to expedite the call for tenders and receiving the agreement of the Economic Council by the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone; to present the report by the official responsible for technical-economic explanation of Mahvar and Zohreh.

- Mr Salehabadi, the deputy from Behshahr: to the ministers of culture, higher education, and health, to resolve the welfare problems of the students of Mashhad University.

Editorial Assesses Law on Political Parties

NC2211110189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Party Law Should Not Be Forgotten"]

[Text] With parliamentary by-elections set for next month in Iran, political parties wanting to contest seats have been asked once more to register themselves and before that submit their applications to a commission that was set up for the purpose after the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Both the Minister of the Interior Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri and his Deputy for Political Affairs 'Atriyan have indicated in separate interviews that there is nothing in the way of parties being registered and operating freely. This accords with the intent of a Majlis act of September 1981 with 19 sections and 9 subsections. However, the act lay dormant and was not made effective due to the disturbed conditions prevalent during the Iraqi-imposed war. But this was revived again after the ceasefire in August last year.

Even despite the ministry's announcement calling on parties to register in terms set out in the act, only three or four parties did and approvals were given for them to opete freely. Yet none of these parties have announced their political manifestos setting out their future plans and intentions on how they wish to proceed.

It is regrettable indeed that parties outside the few already registered have not chosen to submit themselves for consideration to function within the legally permissible frameworks set out by the act. Parties, it must be realized, should be genuinely constituted and motivated to work in the interests of the country and be not merely groups with doubtful causes to promote. The nation needs their help and also the lively and healthy debate that parties can generate to reflect the actual needs during the reconstruction phase tht has just emerged in the country.

The Interior Ministry has a duty to provide the necessary guidelines for the formation of parties and for their approvals to operate legally and freely. No doubt the recent statements by the interior minister and his deputy are an invitation and encouragement to groups which do wish to act as bona fide parties but have been held back for one reason or another. At the same time it should be remembered that any group applying to the commission constituted under Section 10 of the act spoken of above, will have to be given a reply within a three-month period after application. If the commission does not do so within this period, then the Interior Ministry will have the right to proceed to approve such a party or parties at its own discretion.

Actually the commission which according to the law passed by the Majlis should screen the applying parties has failed to announce its decision on all those who have applied for registration. No explanation has been given on why such a significant issue has been subject to such a tardiness and procrastination.

It is time the commission made public its proceedings and decisions.

Raising Capacity of Esfahan Steel Mill Discussed

LD1611140389 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Raising the production capacity of Esfahan steel mill to four million tons per year was discussed between the first deputy minister of mines and industries Muhammad Taqi Banki and the visiting Soviet deputy minister of heavy industries Stanislav Chasnyk here Wednesday.

According to an agreement reached during President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow last June, the two countries are to work to raise the production ceiling of Esfahan steel mill within the next five years. The mill, constructed with Soviet technical assistance has been in operation since 1971.

Banki who is also the managing director of Iran's National Steel Company told the Soviet official that the finished price of steel at the Esfahan mill is very high and that the government is charging the domestic consumers only one-eighth of what it costs the government. As a measure to offset the high cost of production, he stressed, "it is necessary to raise the normal capacity of the mill to 1.9 million tons per year."

Banki said that the two sides must also sort out the delay in Soviet delivery of the necessary spare parts.

The Soviet side, promised that an agreement to raise the nominal capacity to 1.9 million tons will be reached by December 7..

Chasnyk, heading a Soviet delegation arrived here last Thursday.

10-20 Killed, 200 Arrested in Demonstration

TA2111174389 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that, as a result of the barbaric onslaught by the Hezbollah guards against demonstrators at Tehran's grain depot square, 10 to 20 of the demonstrators were killed and more than 200 were arrested.

Our fellow strugglers report that this barbaric attack on people who had gathered to demand a decrease in the price of foodstuff and an end to the system of rationing aroused the people's anger and hatred toward the regime and made them more determined in the struggle against the government.

'Large Number' of Students Wounded in Tehran March

TA2111174589 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that demonstrations and strikes by university students in Tehran and other cities are continuing. According to this report, during a march by students of the Teachers Training College through Tehran streets, including on Kakh Street, the regime's guards fired on the students and wounded a large number of them. At present some of the wounded are being treated in hospitals.

Maldives

Report of Defense Treaty With India Denied

BK1011063089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The Maldives foreign minister, Mr Fathulla Jameel, has said that his country—being a nonaligned nation—has not allowed any superpower to have bases on its soil and it would not have a defense pact with any country. In an interview, he said Maldives was strengthening its own security system by getting more modern equipment and providing advance training to its defense forces with the cooperation of various countries.

The Maldives foreign minister denied a U.S. journal's report that his country and India are expected to sign a defense treaty after the Indian general elections.

Polls Open To Elect New Parliament Members

BK2411134589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 24 (AFP)—Maldivians turned up in large numbers at polling stations Friday [24 November] to elect the Indian Ocean atoll state's new Majlis, or Parliament, officials in the capital Male said.

Brisk polling was reported from all the 202 inhabited islands in the country, which consists of a string of 1,192 coral islands spread across the equator, the officials said by telephone. There are 90,084 registered voters in the Islamic Republic.

In all, 149 candidates were in the fray for the 40 elected seats in the Majlis, while the president would nominate eight more members to the House.

Residents of Male said large crowds of people had gathered outside polling booths to cast their votes.

Balloting began at 7.30 a.m (0230 GMT) and went on till 11 a.m (0600 GMT, when it was suspended to enable people to take part in Moslem Friday prayers. Polling resumed at 2 p.m.(0900 GMT) and was to go on till 5.30 p.m. (1230 GMT), but the time could be extended if people were still waiting outside polling stations to cast their votes, the officials said. The results were expected later Friday or Saturday, they said.

Officials said 11 candidates were contesting the two seats from the capital including Trade, Industry and National Security Minister Ilyas Ibrahim, who has held the seat for the past 15 years.

The current term of the Majlis expires February 22, 1990.

Though there are no political parties in Maldives, electioneering this time was more hectic than during the previous elections, residents said. For the first time, election posters were introduced by one of the Male candidates and residents said they were signs of changes to come.

Pakistan

Bhutto, Saudi Envoy Discuss Bombing Attempt

BK2711165889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Mr (Yusuf M. Mutabakhani), called on the prime minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today. Issues of bilateral concern and development of Pakistan-Saudi relations were discussed. In particular, the ambassador referred to the recent attempt to blow up a plane of the Saudi Arabian Airlines which had taken off [from Islamabad] for Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister expressed her profound sense of concern and shock over the incident. She thanked Almighty Allah that the attempt had failed. She assured the ambassador that the Government of Pakistan will take all necessary measures to trace out and bring the culprits to justice. She issued immediate orders to concerned officials to extend full cooperation to the Embassy and the Government of Saudi Arabia in meeting all security threats to Saudi personnel and establishments in Pakistan.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said such criminal actions were aimed at subverting the close and cordial bilateral relations that existed between the two brotherly countries. She emphasized that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would continue to work closely together to combat such acts of terrorism. The prime minister asked the ambassador to convey her good wishes to Khadimul Haramayn Sharifayn [custodian of the two holy mosques] King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Bhutto Meets Freed Soviet POW's; Reviews Ties

BK2711163689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Two Soviet prisoners of the Afghan war were handed over on humanitarian grounds by the chief justice of the Afghan interim government, Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, to the Soviet ambassador, Mr Viktor

Yakunin, in Peshawar this afternoon. The two prisoners-Andrei Lopukh and Prokopchup—were captured by Afghan mujahidin in 1986.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief justice said they have released a number of Soviet prisoners in the past as well through various international channels. The Soviet ambassador said the gesture of good will be reciprocated very soon with the release of captured mujahidin by the Kabul regime.

Later, the Soviet prisoners along with a Soviet delegation called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, at the Governor's House. The leader of the delegation and mothers of the released Soviet prisoners thanked her for taking a keen interest in their release.

The prime minister said Pakistan has always considered the issue of the POW's as a humanitarian one. She prayed that the sons of all mothers, whether they are Afghans or Soviets, may return to their families. Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan strongly believes in peace and would always try to promote the concept of peace and human dignity. She said Pakistan wants good relations with the Soviet Union. The leader of the delegation presented a copy of the holy Koran and a shawl to the prime minister on the occasion.

Envoy Urges UN To Continue Aid to Afghan Refugees

BK2511112789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Pakistan has called for the continuation of humanitarian assistance for Afghan refugees until a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan conflict is achieved.

Speaking in the General Assembly Social Committee, the Pakistani delegate, Mrs Maimuna Tasleemuddin, expressed concern over plans by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to cut programs for Afghan refugees. She said the problem was far from over as the refugees' influx to Pakistan continues unabated. She said Pakistan would strongly insist that the program level should not only be maintained but also augmented. The Pakistani delegate (?called upon) the world body member-states to help the UNHCR meet the growing needs of Afghan refugees, as more than 70,000 more refugees entered Pakistan since early this year.

2 Killed in Bomb Explosion in Peshawar 24 Nov

BK2411131189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Two persons were killed when a bomb exploded under a car on University Road in Peshawar today [24 November].

70 Kilograms of Heroin Seized Near Peshawar

BK2511161289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 25 (AFP)—A Pakistan Narcotics Control Board squad seized 70 kilograms (154 pounds) of heroin after an exchange of fire with smugglers near here early Saturday [25 November], police said. The heroin was being smuggled in a truck from Adam Khel tribal territory, 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of here, they said.

The anti-narcotics squad, which had received a tip, chased the truck and managed to intercept it at Matni, some 15 kilometers (nine miles) south of here, but the smugglers opened fire and escaped, leaving behind the truck. One of the smugglers was later arrested, the police said. The heroin was to have been smuggled abroad, they added.